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Meadowlark

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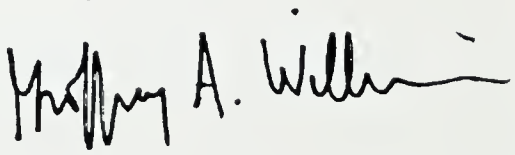
President's Message

We are fortunate to be birders, because birders always live in interesting times. The cycles and seasons and movements of birds give us a world of constant fascination. The next cold front might bring a rarity to our birding neighborhood. Our next excursion to the field may uncover an unusual behavior we hadn't observed before. We might find ourselves surprised because we found a summer resident lingering far later into the fall than expected. As birders we keenly observe the world around us, ever-watchful for the unusual, the interesting.

However, we can make these observations only if we understand what constitutes the usual. We must know what birds are common to recognize that one is rare. We must be familiar with the natural history of our birds to remark upon odd behaviors and out-of-season occurrences. For mastering the difference between usual and unusual, we are blessed with a tremendously helpful resource, and it is resting in your hands at this very moment. The Illinois Ornithological Society is now publishing the ninth volume of *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds*. Each issue enhances our knowledge and understanding of Illinois birdlife. And this latest issue not only brings us up to date on the most recent happenings in avian natural history around our state, but it also is yet one more building block in Illinois's ornithological record. Nine years and counting! The talents and tireless efforts of Editor-in-Chief Sheryl DeVore and the fine leadership of past presidents Eric Walters and Bob Montgomery were key in making these years of *Meadowlark* possible. Sheryl continues her excellent work as chief editor, and I hope to serve you as well as Eric and Bob have. But the foundation of the ornithological record in *Meadowlark* comes from you. It is all of you who put in hours in the field, hours making and recording observations of Illinois birdlife.

The seasonal reports and the articles detailing significant avian events are an outcome of your efforts as observers of nature. It is my wish that IOS, through its publications and its many other activities, continually helps each and every one of you to improve your knowledge of Illinois birds and your observational skills. We'll then be even better equipped to record the ongoing story of the birdlife of Illinois. And we do indeed live in interesting times. The status and distribution of birds in Illinois are changing. The Eurasian Collared-Dove has arrived. Climate change from global warming may already be impacting the distribution of birds in Illinois, and that influence will no doubt increase. Positive and negative effects of restoration efforts and land use policy will affect the abundance of birds. These changes will unfold in the pages of *Meadowlark* and will be recorded there for the benefit of future generations in addition to ours. All because you saw them, and you reported them.

Please contribute to our understanding of Illinois birds.



Letter from the editor

Bird behavior, people behavior

Identifying birds is not enough for me. Whenever I'm out in the field, questions arise. Why is the pair of Sandhill Cranes with their nearly grown young acting as if they are feeding in the wetlands, when they're not eating anything? And why do some birds such as Song Sparrows and Redwinged Blackbirds start singing for a short time in fall?

For many of us, part of the joy of birding besides identification and listing, is observing behavior. To satisfy that craving, we've started a new column in *Meadowlark* called: Ask The Ornithologist, which you'll find on page 59. If you have a burning question about birds in Illinois, Email me at sdevore@voyager.net or send me a note at 967 Braebum Road, Mundelein, IL 60060, or send your question directly to Steve Bailey at Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 E. Peabody, Champaign, IL 61820 or Email him at: sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu

Also new in this issue is a column about one of the many birding organizations in the state. We'd like to feature groups statewide. One thing birding does for me, although I do like to be alone in the field sometimes, is having a sense that I'm part of a large family. That part of our avocation especially struck me when so many of us were out searching for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Illinois Beach State Park this August and September. When birders help each other locate the species or offer a look through their scope, then birders become people, too, and very nice people at that.

Sheryl DeVore

Sheryl De Vore

Please make a note of this correction: In *Meadowlark Vol 8 No. 2* (page 44), the correct spelling of the name of the couple who had the Allen's Hummingbird in Niantic, Illinois is as follows: Mary and Chad Stamm. Also the date under the photo on page 44 should read: 17 November 1997.

The Meadowlark staff regrets the error and thanks the Stamms for reporting their wonderful find. Mary Stamm recently sent us an Email saying, "This was such a wonderful experience for us, and a great story to pass on to our grandchildren."

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About Our Cover:

Michael Retter drew the cover art of a male Barrow's Goldeneye, one of the species discussed in the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee report in this issue. See page 52.

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Birding Illinois 100 Years Ago: Part 2

Of Waterfowl and Whooping Cranes

by Sheryl DeVore

Autumn in Illinois. The marshes become dry, and all kinds of waterfowl resort to the Illinois River and a lake in central Illinois near Peoria for resting and feeding. The numbers are so great, that if they remained on the lake it would be impossible to travel over it in a canoe without pushing the birds aside with a paddle. This is the scene Pierre Liette encountered in 1702, and wrote about in his memoirs of traversing the waterways of Illinois.

Birders in Illinois today can still see vestiges of this remarkable sight, though no one need worry about pushing birds aside with their paddles. At Lower Swan Lake Access Area in the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Snow Geese begin arriving in October, their numbers peaking sometimes to 20,000 birds. Birding the Keithsburg Division of the refuge near Quincy in spring can yield looks at many migratory waterfowl, up to 26 species, including Snow Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser and Ruddy Duck (pers. comm. Kelly J. McKay, Winter Field Notes Editor for *Meadowlark*).

When birders view this abundance and diversity, it's easy to think that waterfowl are doing just fine in the Prairie State. But consider the virtual destruction of the tens of thousands of acres of prairie potholes that once attracted waterfowl to breed in Illinois. Then consider what people saw 300 years ago, and the story of dwindling waterfowl numbers becomes clear.

Bob Erickson photographed this Whooping Crane 11 November 1998 at Illinois Beach State Park in Lake County. It was the first state record since 1958. Will Illinois birders see more Whooping Cranes in the new millennium?

Today, 50 percent of the waterfowl in North America breed in the Midwestern prairie pothole region, and "based on projected warming, more droughts will occur on their breeding grounds," said Dr. Terry Root, Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. "The studies show that as temperatures increase, the 5 million pairs of ducks breeding in this region may dwindle to 2.1 million ducks. Some could even go extinct," she said.

The global mean temperature has been rising based on data from 1860 to the year 2000. From 1950 to 2000 there's been an increase in carbon emissions. Data also show an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming.

The ecological consequences of global warming are just now being explored by scientists. Numbers of ducks, geese, and other waterfowl, it seems, are not only decreasing because of habitat loss, but also because of climate change. Seeing huge numbers of waterfowl in Illinois during migration could become a rare occurrence.

And if that doesn't convince Illinois birders, consider that in the late 1800s, the Whooping Crane was a regular migrant along the Illinois River. At that time, however, the bird had already nearly been extirpated as a breeder in the state. R. Kennicott noted that only a few Whooping Cranes bred in Illinois in the 1850s, and those were confined to the middle and southern parts of the state. In the late 1870s, E.W. Nelson wrote that only a few Whooping Cranes still bred in the state, and these were confined to the few remaining large marshes in central Illinois (Schorger 1964).

Though Whooping Cranes will probably never again breed in Illinois, birders here may have a greater chance to see them in coming years. A Whooping Crane Recovery Team has recommended Wisconsin as the next release site for the establishment of a migratory flock of Whooping Cranes. The birds will be taught to migrate to a wintering area in Florida, and their migratory path will probably take them through Illinois.

The initial decline of the whooping crane population was probably caused by a combination of habitat loss and human disturbance of breeding areas. In addition, humans shot birds for their feathers, and collectors took their eggs. These threats plus the fact that the Whooping Crane has a low reproductive rate resulted in a rapid decline of the species earlier this century. In 1941, only 21 wild Whooping Cranes remained in the wild.

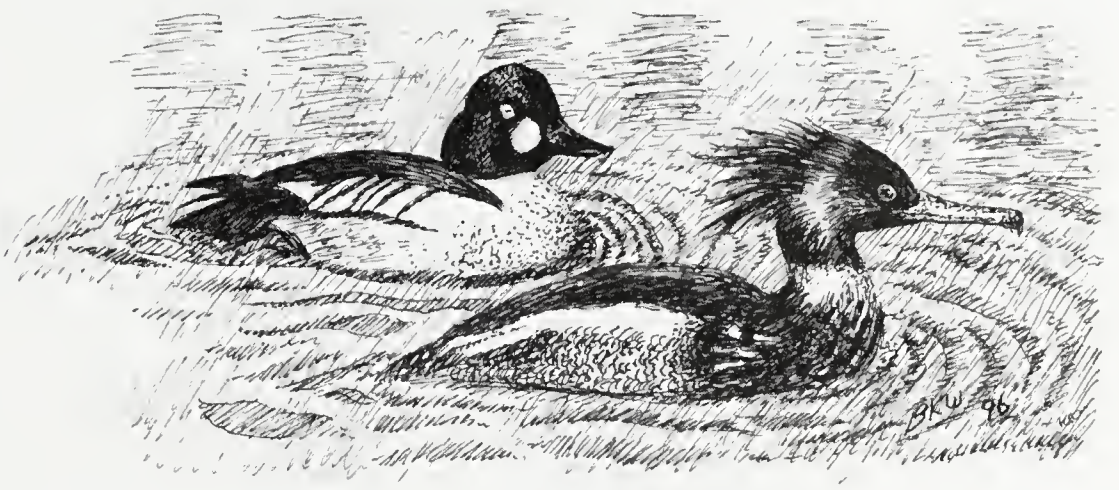
A recovery plan began in 1967, but it has not been easy. Whooping Cranes are sensitive to repeated human disturbance on their breeding grounds, and they face many threats along their migration routes, colliding with power lines and finding fewer places to rest as their stopover marshes get developed. The recovery plan involved using Sandhill Cranes as foster parents for Whooping Cranes. Since Whooping Cranes lay two eggs but raise only one offspring, scientists took one egg from nests in Wood Buffalo National Park and placed them in the nests of Sandhill Cranes in Idaho.

These foster parents hatched and successfully raised their adopted Whooping Crane chicks. The young Whooping Cranes then migrated with the adult Sandhill Cranes to wintering habitat in New Mexico. Initial results were promising, but the program has proved unsuccessful in the long term. Most Whooping Cranes raised by Sandhill Cranes failed to return to the breeding site where they were reared. Moreover, they became imprinted on their foster parents, and were not successful in breeding with their own species.

And as long as Whooping Cranes use only one breeding area and one wintering area, the potential exists that this species will be lost in the wild.

The Whooping Crane conservation program to introduce a second group of breeding birds involves new methods of captive breeding as well as new ways to teach captive-raised cranes to migrate with the use of a "guide-bird" population. In September 2001, the first group of Whooping Cranes will be guided from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to a wildlife refuge in Florida where the birds will winter, and hopefully return in spring to mate.

Perhaps Robert Hughes' siting of a Whooping Crane flying over Illinois Beach State Park on 10 November 1998 (Hughes 1999), foreshadows the return of the crane at least as a migrant, to Illinois. When Hughes saw the bird, it was the first time it had been reported in Illinois in 40 years.



Common Goldeneye and Red Brested Merganser drawing by Brian K. Willis.

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Hughes, Robert. 1999. Meadowlark 8:2, pp.46-47. Whooping crane over Illinois Beach State Park.

Schorger, A.W. 1964. The Wilson Bulletin 76: 4, p. 333. The Trumpeter swan as a breeding bird in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

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Authors Note: *A pair of banded and radio-tagged Whooping Cranes were reported near Salem, Illinois in Marion County on 11 May 2000. Richard Day of Alma, Illinois photographed the birds. A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist, Steve Nesbitt identified the birds by the radio transmitters attached to their legs.*

Struggling in the Wind: Getting Started in Hawkwatching

by Vic Berardi

Somewhere near East Troy, Wisconsin in the Kettle Moraine State Forest a small hawk not much bigger than a Blue Jay sits in a quiet woodland waiting for her next meal. She's a Sharp-shinned Hawk and this is what she does. She was born just a few months ago, but for the last couple of months her life has been nothing but chase, chase, chase, and usually she misses what she was chasing. But today, on a hazy Wednesday afternoon in mid-October, instinct along with hours of trial and error have improved her skills tremendously. She spots something and her chase begins. Weaving through the trees' branches, barely touching them, she narrows in on her meal. In a flash of dominance she clasps hold of the small bird and flies to a nearby conifer. She sits on a branch well-hidden from view, and tears into a Yellow-rumped Warbler that was also born a few months ago, but didn't quite learn the game as well as others of this species that were already hundreds of miles south of here. While she is finishing her meal, she feels the warm southerly breeze slicing through the branches. She decides to rest a bit. A couple of hours later, but still well stuffed from her afternoon meal she senses something. The skies begin to turn gray and that warm southerly wind has slightly changed direction. She sits still and waits. Daylight turns into darkness, and off in the distance, bright flashes of light fill the sky and are followed by a deep rolling sound. When the light isn't flashing, it is pitch black. As she sits still, droplets of water peck at her body. The droplets then stop and the deep rolling sound fades. She drifts into sleep.

The following morning, Thursday, she awakens to clear blue skies. The air is considerably cooler than yesterday. The Sharp-shinned Hawk ruffles her feathers. Something stirs in her. She turns her head to check the surroundings and in a burst of energy flies from a hidden branch to above the treetops. As she climbs, a push of cool air guides her. Warm air rises beneath her as she climbs to a thousand feet. When the air no longer lifts her, she glides. Around midday, the air lifts her to heights she has never reached in her short life. Even though her hunger for food grows stronger she remains on course. Others like her fly too. Occasionally something speeds below her at treetop level, most likely a Merlin. Well above her and moving a little slower are the bigger hawks her instinct tells her to avoid, but once in while she pesters them. The afternoon arrives; she sails on, over a gently rolling countryside dotted with small stands of oak trees. As she flies, the air force pushing her on gets stronger and chillier. Suddenly, she sees something ahead. It's huge, it's grayish blue, and it's totally uninviting! She drops down a little lower, but the warm air from below keeps lifting her higher. And at the same time the air is pushing her towards sure disaster. She is alone, and her life is at stake.

Above: Broad-winged Hawk drawing by Brian K. Willis.

At right: American Kestrel photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Earlier in the week on Tuesday evening, a birder has been watching the weather reports for days on the nightly news and the cable weather channel. He has studied all the newspaper weather maps. He knows from his reading and from what others have told him that westerly to northwesterly winds following a cold front can produce sizable hawk flights. His destination is Illinois Beach State Park just north of Chicago, about an hour and half drive from where he lives. From everything he can figure, Thursday is the day, two days from today. He contemplates taking the day off from work if all looks good on Wednesday night.

He awakens early on Thursday morning and turns on the cable weather channel and confirms the winds will be from the northwest and increasing throughout the day to 25 miles per hour. He packs a sandwich and a few goodies and fills a water bottle. One quick glance at the road map and he's on his way. Breezing

Tools for a Budding Hawkwatcher

Below are a few recommendations for a beginning hawkwatcher as well as some useful information for those who have had "a little time under the sun" and have had "their faces pointed to the wind."

Binoculars and Scopes

Binoculars with at least 7X are required, with 10X being the best. Why is 10X better? Many of the hawks you will see are mere specks in the sky to the unaided eye. It is true that a higher powered scope can be a handy tool for identification of these specks, but many times the view of the hawk is lost just trying to find its location in the sky. 10X binoculars if held steady offer the best chance of identifying a distant hawk. Sometimes just a few more seconds with a good view clinches the ID. Also factor in field of view and weight. Binoculars with the widest field of view, the highest power, and lighter weight allow the best situation for viewing.

As the days of October come, so does a chill in the air. Sitting or standing in one spot for any length of time isn't the best way to stay warm. Extra layers of clothing and a good pair of gloves are required. Sometimes you may even need heavy duty winter boots. Also bring something to sit on, such as a folding chair or simply a blanket, and don't forget to protect any exposed skin with sun block.

Books & Videos

The following is a list of recommended aids in the study of hawks, especially the understanding and identification of migrating hawks.

1. *Hawks in Flight*, by Pete Dunne, David Sibley, & Clay Sutton (1988)

Describes in detail, characteristics of hawks as seen flying overhead. All North American species of raptors are covered, but the focus is on eastern hawks where the authors have spent a significant part of their life studying and conducting hawk migration counts. The book is small enough to carry in the field, but studying the information prior to your first attempt at hawk watching is a good idea. This is the number one book for learning how to identify hawks as seen in the sky.

2. *Hawks of North America (Peterson Field Guide)*,
William S. Clark & Brian K. Wheeler (1987)

The standard field guide for hawk ID. It is thorough in general knowledge and the colored plates and photographs are superb. If there is only one book you want to buy, this is the one.

3. *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*,
by Brian K. Wheeler & William S. Clark (1995)
Reprinted with corrections in 1999.

The premier photo book of hawks both perched and in flight. No other book on the market has as many superb photographs of hawks with complete descriptions as this book. It is a must for all serious hawkwatchers. Make sure you get the 1999 edition.

along at 60 miles an hour up Interstate 55 he exits at I-294 headed north. Then up Highway 41 to Wadsworth Road, going east he proceeds into Illinois Beach State Park. The walk from the parking lot to the observation deck at the end of the Dead River Trail is normally about 20 minutes, but he stops and looks at the birds along the way. He arrives at the platform about 10 a.m. and a couple of other hawk watchers inform him that they have already seen a bunch of Red-tailed Hawks, an Osprey, a Cooper's Hawk, a half a dozen Northern Harriers, a bunch of Merlins and who knows how many Sharp-shinned Hawks. He gets excited and starts scanning the skies in all directions to look for hawks. He spots a distant buteo and tries to identify it, he figures it to be a Redtail and continues scanning elsewhere. He sees a bird speeding toward him at incredible speed, must be a Mourning Dove he thinks, but no it's a Merlin! All he had was a second to identify it. Off in the distance he notices the puffy white cumulus clouds forming west of the park and drifting over the lake. He remembers that these clouds are formed from warm rising air called thermals. In the afternoon, the wind has gotten a little stronger, the air chillier. By 2 p.m., he has seen hundreds of hawks and decides to leave. When he reaches his car he flings his backpack into the back seat and slips his binoculars off his neck. Just before he gets in, he glances up and sees another immature Sharp-shinned Hawk struggling in the wind.

These events illustrate a typical day in the life of an immature female Sharp-shinned Hawk on her first migration and a birder on his way to becoming addicted to hawkwatching. For the hawkwatcher, it is both fun and challenging. The challenge is not only in the aspect of identifying migrating hawks, but also the patience and stamina required to endure days when hawks are not

Red-tailed Hawk photo by Peter Weber.

in abundance or on days when the weather seems to chill you down to the extreme. The first part of the challenge can be learned, the second part must be experienced. For the hawk, we may never know about the thrill of flying in migration season, but the challenge is to stay alive. What an experience that must be, especially the first time learning it.

Watching and Counting Hawks

Every fall, hawkwatching fever strikes many birders. We hear of the great hawkwatching spots that also have national notoriety, such as Cape May Point in New Jersey or Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. A little closer to Illinois, and every bit as productive, we have Hawk Ridge in Duluth, Minnesota and Lake Erie Metro Park near Detroit, Michigan.

These sites offer spectacular sightings of large numbers of hawks, but many of us may not wish to travel that far or have the time required for the trip. A few sites nearer to Illinois can be quite productive.

The most popular is the overlook at Concordia University near Mequon, Wisconsin. Every year, thousands of hawks migrate along the shoreline of Lake Michigan. An official hawk count has been conducted at Concordia for the past 17 years with more intensive counts conducted since 1996. Data from this site has been reported to The Hawk Migration Association of North America.

In the fall of 1999, observers tallied 7,447 hawks of 14 species, with a big day total on 22 September 1999 of 3,544 hawks counted of which 3,392 were Broad-winged Hawks. The largest Broad-winged Hawk count ever recorded at Concordia came on 18 September 1992 when 14,109 hawks streamed overhead. Concordia's average hawk count total per year, as recorded from 1983 to 1999 is 6,146 hawks. In 1999, 1,448 Sharp-shinned Hawks were tallied, which was slightly below the average of 1,479 over the same 17-year period. One of the most memorable recorded days at Concordia happened on October 14 and 15 of 1995 when Hal Cohen and a group of his students were there for the weekend doing the count. The 2 day count for that weekend

4. *All the Birds of Prey (Compact Guide)*, by Jack L. Griggs (1999)

A compact pocket-sized guidebook that can be carried in the field and has excellent descriptions and colored plates of hawks and owls. A short section written on hawk watch sites by one of the country's superlative hawk counters, Jerry Ligouri, is well worth reading. Although this book is not as thorough as the Peterson Guide, it has information not found elsewhere. Carry in your backpack for quick and easy reference.

5. *Flight Identification of European Raptors*, by R.F. Porter, Ian Willis, Steen Christensen, & Bent Pors Nielsen (1974)

Although the majority of the hawks covered in this book are only found in Europe, a few such as Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Goshawk are also found in North America. The plates and descriptions are very thorough and offer a few details not found in other guidebooks. It is also interesting to have some knowledge of hawks that may drift over the Atlantic one day, so why not be prepared?

6. *The Complete Birder, A Guide to Better Birding*, by Jack Connor (1988)

Covers all aspects of birding through all four seasons, and is great reading. The ID section on hawks offers a new insight on identification. The section on accipiter ID is superb.

7. *How To Spot Hawks & Eagles,* by Clay Sutton & Patricia Taylor Sutton (1996)

Another book to add to your shelf that includes not only a terrific section on hawk migration, but also where to find hawks year-round. Excellent photos complement the pages and the text is well-researched by the authors. The acknowledgment section is comparable to a list of the country's top hawkwatchers.

8. *Hawks, Eagles, & Falcons of North America*, by Paul A. Johnsgard (1990)

The most detailed and completely written book on the subject of North American hawks. The appendices and reference section include a glossary and a large biography of hawk related publications. This book is an asset to those wanting deeper knowledge of hawk biology and natural history. Breeding areas are thorough, and identification descriptions of all age groups of hawks are fully covered. It may not be a field book, but it's another must for the serious student of hawks.

9. *Flight Strategies of Migrating Hawks*, by Paul Kerlinger (1989)

The most scientific text written on hawk migration to date. The author educates the reader on all the terms used when describing hawk migration, and then some. It is filled with interesting charts, statistics, and mathematical formulas. Explanations of the whys and wheres of hawk migration are covered with incredible detail. Don't let this book scare you; it is enlightening..

10. *Season at the Point, The Birds and Birders of Cape May,* by Jack Connor (1991)

Superb reading material. The author takes the reader through a complete season at Cape May Point and fills the pages with the area's rich natural history and the people who have been instrumental in the development of the bird observatory. You may find yourself reading this book over and over again.

came to 3,751 raptors and 15 species. Highlights included an all-time single day high count of 479 Merlins on 14 October 1995 followed by another 63 Merlins counted the following day! Birders also counted 461 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 14 October 1995, followed by a spectacular count of 1,949 Sharp-shins the next day.

A little closer to home, on the very same October weekend in 1995 at Illinois Beach State Park, a small group of Chicagoland birders (Eric Walters, Bob Erickson, Wes Serafin, and Josh Engel) also witnessed a record flight of hawks. The total for 14 and 15 October 1995 was 1,380 raptors. The Merlin count on the 14 October 1995 was 93 followed by 9 more Merlins the next day. Birdders tallied 110 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 14 October, and 531 the next day.

The question of why more hawks are counted at Concordia every year than at Illinois Beach State Park, which is less than 70 miles south, may remain unanswered for many years. Do the hawks drift away from Milwaukee as they head south? The Chicago lakefront has never really recorded any hawk flights of size, either. But just a few miles southwest of the city and a few miles east of Wheaton, Hal Cohen and a small band of volunteer hawk watchers have recorded sizable hawk flights in the fall at Mt. Hoy. Are the hawks that disperse over Milwaukee and farther down the lakefront near Chicago the same ones that end up at Mt. Hoy? The data at least point in that direction.

Thermals and Other Terms

All across the state of Wisconsin and northern Illinois, on any given day in the fall, hawks are migrating south, especially on days offering the best conditions for traveling in the air. Many terms such as thermal lift and backside of a cold front aid in the

understanding of migration, but can also add to the confusion of when and where to go. Nonetheless, hawkwatchers wanting the best chances to see the greatest number of hawks, should try to understand some of these terms. Also remember the best days for hawks to migrate might not necessarily be the best day to see them. A sunny, cloudless day with great wind conditions will propel the hawks so high, birders can't see them.

The best place to see a concentration of hawks is where certain types of land forms funnel birds. Hawks migrating over a broad front, meaning a wide spread pattern, offer the observer the least chances of witnessing a sizable flight. Hawks prefer to migrate on days when air currents rising from the warmed surface of the earth help give them lift which requires less self powered flight and reduces their energy output. These conditions occur on any day the sun's rays can heat up the ground. So can it be said that any day in fall when the sun is shining hawks are migrating south? Maybe. One more factor helps our feathered travelers, and that is wind. Logic tells you that a wind that pushes the hawks is best, but that may not be the case. According to the book, *A Season At The Point, by Jack O'Connor*, Paul Kerlinger states that hawks at Cape May Point also migrate south on days with a south wind literally blowing into the hawks' faces. Why is that? Lift. The hawks simply open their wings and (like a kite) can reach unobservable heights. They then glide down a great distance before requiring another lift.

The terms leading line and diversion line have the greatest importance for Illinois hawkwatchers, especially those who wish to observe from the lakefront. The water diverts the hawks because they don't want to cross, so they follow the shoreline or the leading line.

As the story of the Sharp-shinned Hawk illustrates, the wind, and nothing else, creates conditions for hawks to concentrate along the lakefront. Conditions after a cold front produce sun-laden days for thermals to build. They also produce a westerly component that forces hawks using these thermals to arrive at the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Most hawks will not travel over open water, that is where the terms leading line and diversion line have their meaning understood.

Concordia University... Where & When To Go

The hawkwatch at Concordia University is approximately 60 miles from the Illinois/Wisconsin border on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Take I-94 north to I-43, continue north to Exit 85, which is Mequon Road and Highway 167. Follow the signs to the college and park in the eastern part of the parking lot. You can observe either from the gazebo or at the southern end of the property via a short trail. This hawkwatch site is easily accessible from your car. If hawks aren't flying, the vista of the lake from the bluff rising 150 feet from lake level offers great views of fall waterfowl and gulls. If you see someone with a clipboard and tally counters, ask them how many hawks have been counted that day.

The best time to go to Concordia is from the last week of August through all of November. Most hawks pass through from mid-September through the third week of October. Early September has Osprey passing through with Broad-winged Hawks arriving a few weeks later. Sharp-shins, Merlins, and a few Red-tails start showing up in late September. Late September is your best bet for Peregrines, too. Bald Eagles can be seen from this period well into October. By mid-October, the days with the most potential for big single day flights increase. Sharp-shins by the hundreds in one day are not uncommon. From mid-October on, Rough-legged Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Golden Eagles fly, and continue well into November. Northern Harriers can be seen during late September into November.

Illinois Beach State Park

Illinois Beach State Park had no formal hawkwatch established as of this writing, but the site has great potential for an organized count. The park is on the shores of Lake Michigan near the Illinois border. Take Highway 41 north to Wadsworth Road and go east a few miles to the entrance of the park just across Sheridan Road. Proceed into the park and turn into the nature center area. Take the Dead River Trail south to the observation deck near the end of the path. Remember in fall all the hawks will be either coming from the north or northwest both along the shoreline and inland.

An alternative site that is more accessible from your car and offers both wind protection and a restroom is at the Sailing Beach parking lot in the North Unit of the park. Follow the directions above, but instead of entering the park across from Sheridan Road, turn north onto Sheridan Road to 17th Street where you will see a sign indicating the entrance to the North Unit of the park. Go past the pond and proceed on the winding road to the Sailing Beach parking lot. This site offers the same vista as the Dead River spot as well as a superb look at the shoreline and lake. The best time to watch hawks is between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Some Words on Weather and Identification

Because of the nature of the locations of the hawkwatches stated here, both of these sites are weather dependent. Best days as mentioned earlier are days with westerly to northwesterly winds. But keep in mind, some hawks, such as Peregrine Falcons and

11. *Living on the Wind (Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, by Scott Weidensaul (1999)

Poetic, superbly written companion to Kerlinger's book. Although scientific in aspect, the author makes this book easy to read as well as entertaining. The majority is not about hawk migration, but the chapters written on the subject are special.

12. *Raptors, The Birds of Prey*, by Scott Weidensaul (1996)

A comprehensive book on raptors that has more information packed into one book than any other available. It covers everything from conservation to the origins of raptor names. No hawk watcher's shelf or coffee table should be without it.

13. *Proceedings of Hawk Migration Conference IV*, by HMANA (1985)

A difficult-to-find compilation of articles written for the Hawk Migration Association of North America journal. Many of the topics in this book are not found elsewhere, and include radar methods for studying hawk migration and estimating the altitude of migrating hawks. Technical, but intriguing.

14. *The Migration of Hawks,* Donald S. Heintzelman (1986)

(Out of Print) Written in 1975, and published in 1986, this is the original book written on hawk watching in the country. It details many of the lesser known sites across the nation and offers some statistics, although most are not thorough. The inter-library system should be able to find you a copy and it is worth reviewing from a historical point of view.

15. (Video) *Hawk Watch, A Video Guide to Eastern Raptors*, by Richard K. Walton & Greg Dodge (1998)

If there is one video to help you learn how to ID hawks in flight, this is it. As Pete Dunne puts it, "The next best thing to being there!" A bonus is the video quiz at the end of the tape that focuses on everything you learned. Run time is 45 minutes.

16. (Video) *Hawks Up Close*, National Audubon Society & Nature Science Network (1992)

Superb footage on the lives of hawks. This very entertaining video does not cover identification in detail nor migration studies. But that's not its purpose. It is well worth watching. Run time is 55 minutes.

17. (Video) *Audubon Society's Video Guide To Birds of North America: I* (1985)

Part of a video series containing a total of five volumes. This volume covers hawks as well as other birds. Total run time is 94 minutes, but the section on hawks is very short.

A Word on Websites

Because of the nature of the Internet, the author has, intentionally but regrettably, left out the many websites that offer excellent aid to viewing and identifying hawks, as well as general information. For those familiar with Internet use, try one of the search engines available to find these sites by simply typing in a few key words. The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) is a good place to start.

– Vic Berardi
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Merlins don't rely on wind as much as food for migration.

The most important thing to remember when learning to identify hawks is patience. Not all hawks can be identified easily and all of the premier hawk counters in the country will admit, albeit under twisted arm, they have been mistaken from time to time on their calls. Try to identify each and every hawk by a process of elimination. Remember, chances are the hawk you are seeing will most likely fall under the 14 or so species common in our area. But keep in mind that hawks in migration do not necessarily follow the same rules as they do during other times of the year. For example, a Northern Harrier is usually seen flying low to the ground most of the time, but in migration it is not uncommon to see one soaring at great heights. It is also very important to study birds that can be mistaken for hawks. Crows, gulls, herons, and even soaring cormorants at a distance can easily display many of the characteristics of hawks in flight.

Whenever possible, go with someone who has a little experience. It'll help with any frustration you may incur when trying to decide on what you're actually seeing a mile away in the sky. Also, all of the books and videos mentioned above will help in one way or another, but nothing beats experience in the field. So pick a site you can frequent often and keep your eyes to the sky.

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The Sixth Report of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

by Douglas F. Stotz and David B. Johnson

Evaluations by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee ("IORC," or "the Committee") are reported here for a total of 68 records, including 57 accepted records of 38 species, and 11 unaccepted records of 11 species. A total of 69 observers contributed descriptions or photographs documenting the records included in this report. Included herein are reviewed species evaluations from 1997, 1998, and 1999. Some records are still in dispute and the Committee is, as of this publication, still reviewing those records. If a photograph was published in *American Birds*, *Audubon Field Notes*, *Field Notes* (now the combined publication of American Birding Association and National Audubon Society), *Illinois Birds and Birding*, or *Meadowlark* an attempt has been made to reference those publications for that bird record evidence. Any errors of omission are the fault of the authors.

It should also be noted that the Committee has published an official list of bird species accepted for the state of Illinois. This publication is the Checklist of Illinois State Birds (Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, 1999).

Format: The format of this report follows the conventions used in the first through fifth reports of the Committee (Goetz and Robinson 1988; Goetz 1989; Goetz 1990; Johnson, Deaton and Clyne 1998; Johnson and Stotz 1999). The records below are divided into two major groups: Accepted and Unaccepted. Each of these groups is then further divided into Review List Records, and Other Records. The sequence of species conforms to that of the American Ornithologists' Union seventh checklist (1998) and its supplements.

An accepted record is entered with the locality (including the standard abbreviation for the county (see below)), the date, and (in parentheses) the IORC record number (the first four characters of which give the year of the first observation), and the initials of the primary observer(s) who contributed specimens, descriptions, and/or photographs. Similar information is provided for unaccepted records, except the observers remain anonymous, and a brief explanation of why the record was not accepted is given. Photographic evidence is noted following a contributor's name by an asterisk (*); when the photographic evidence is known to be a videotape, a "v" is appended (*v);*p,v indicates both photographic and video evidence presented by same contributor. Many contributing photographers also submitted written descriptions—a practice the Committee encourages. If the observer(s) who first discovered the bird submitted documentation, their initials are set off from the initials of other contributors by a semicolon. Initial observers who did not submit documentations are not always listed. For specimen records, a sharp (#) precedes an abbreviation for the institution holding the specimen, along with that institution's catalogue number of the specimen.

We have made an attempt to reference published photographs and brief accounts (such as seasonal highlights published in MJIB) by journal number and page. Articles are cited by author and date and are indexed in the list of references. Seasonal highlights in MJIB dealing with first state records are treated as articles.

Several records seen by several to many observers were documented by only one or two of these observers. The committee would like to encourage all observers to document all the review list species they see. Documentation by multiple observers can provide additional evidence and support for the identity of rarities. Often records that have not been accepted suffer from incomplete information, a problem that additional documentation by other observers could help overcome.

Information on the age and sex of the birds reported may be an opinion of the person(s) submitting the evidence and is not necessarily an accepted position of the Committee. All other remarks are the authors', although most of the information comes from the Committee files,

Abbreviations: References to seasonal reports in the journals *Illinois Birds and Birding*; *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*; *American Birds*; *Field Notes*; and *North American Birds* are abbreviated by IBB, MJIB, AB, FN, and NAB, respectively, followed by volume and page numbers; note that the first two issues of MJIB (Volume 1, Numbers 1 and 2) were paginated separately, not sequentially within that volume, and the journal number is included for those two issues. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters.

County abbreviations largely follow those adopted in Johnson, Deaton and Clyne (1998). The 102 Illinois counties and their abbreviations are as follows:

Adams = ADA
Alexander = ALE
Bond = BON
Boone = BOO
Brown = BRO
Bureau = BUR
Calhoun = CAL
Carroll = CAR
Cass = CAS
Champaign = CHA
Christian = CHR
Clark = CLR
Clay = CLY
Clinton = CLI
Coles = COL
Cook = COO
Crawford = CRA
Cumberland = CUM
De Kalb = DEK
De Witt = DEW
Douglas = DOU
Du Page = DUP
Edgar = EDG
Edwards = EDW
Effingham = EFF
Fayette = FAY
Ford = FOR
Franklin = FRA
Fulton = FUL
Gallatin = GAL
Greene = GRE
Grundy = GRU
Hamilton = HAM
Hancock = HAN
Hardin = HAR
Henderson = HND
Henry = HNR
Iroquois = IRO
Jackson = JAC
Jasper = JAS
Jefferson = JEF
Jersey = JER
Jo Davies = JOD
Johnson = JOH
Kane = KNE
Kankakee = KNK
Kendall = KEN
Knox = KNO
Lake = LAK
La Salle = LAS
Lawrence = LAW
Lee = LEE
Livingston = LIV
Logan = LOG
McDonough = McD
McHenry = McH
McLean = McL
Macon = MCN
Macoupin = MCP
Madison = MAD
Marion = MRN
Marshall = MRS
Mason = MSN
Massac = MSS
Menard = MEN
Mercer = MER
Monroe = MNR
Montgomery = MNT
Morgan = MOR
Moultrie = MOU
Ogle = OGL
Peoria = PEO
Perry = PER
Piatt = PIA
Pike = PIK
Pope = POP
Pulaski = PUL
Putnam = PUT
Randolph = RAN
Richland = RIC
Rock Island = ROC
St. Clair = SCL
Saline = SAL
Sangamon = SAN
Schuyler = SCH
Scott = SCO
Shelby = SHE
Stark = STA
Stephenson = STE
Tazewell = TAZ
Union = UNI
Vermilion = VER
Wabash = WAB
Warren = WAR
Washington = WAS
Wayne = WAY
White = WHT
Whiteside = WHS
Will = WLL
Williamson = WLM
Winnebago = WIN
Woodford = WOO.

Other abbreviations used throughout are:

AOU = American Ornithologists' Union
CA = Conservation Area
CAS = Chicago Academy of Sciences
CBC = Christmas Bird Count
Co. = County
Cos. = Counties
FMNH = Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago)
FP = Forest Preserve
GLNTC = Great Lakes Naval Training Center (LAK)
GLPSP = Goose Lake Prairie State Park (GRU)
IBSP = Illinois Beach State Park (LAK)
ISM = Illinois State Museum (Springfield)
NC = Nature Center
NF = National Forest
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
SBC = Spring Bird Count
SP = State Park.

"Northern", "central", and "southern Illinois" refer to specific subsections of the state as first defined by Gault 1922; see also Bohlen 1978. The terms "region" and "regional" apply to the Middlewestern Prairie Region as used in FN and NAB and include Illinois as well as Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and most of Ohio and Kentucky.

which are now stored in Springfield, Illinois, as part of the Avian Ecology Program, Natural Heritage Section, Department of Natural Resources.

In several cases there are discrepancies between the details presented here vs. other published sources, especially regarding dates of occurrence. The data in this report provide the Committee's best assessment of all available information. We have not generally commented on records that are published elsewhere with more limited data than contained here, but we have made explicit note of apparent errors in published data. The Committee accepts responsibility for any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of information herein. Errors that come to our attention will be published as corrigenda in a future IORC report.

Documentors: Bill Atwood, Steve Bailey, Dennis Beaver, Frank Bennett, Dale Birkenholz, Tadas Birutis, Richard Biss, H. David Bohlen (HDB), Denis Bohm, Melissa Brookins, Greg Buchwald, Vicki Buchwald, Angelo Capparella, Rick Cantu (RCa), Robert Chapel (RCh), Brian Chandler, Peter Chemery, Karl David, Myrna Deaton, Danny Diaz, Carolyn Fields, Ann Harness, Roger Hedge (RHe), Kanae Hirabayashi, Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Michael Hogg, Robert Hughes, David Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Eric Kershner, Steve Kinder, Vern Kleen, Tom Koz, Alexandra Latham, John McDaniel, Joe B. Milosevich, Keith McMillan, Rhonda Monroe, Robert A. Montgomery, Pete Moxon, Terry McNeely, Dennis Oehmke, Steve Olson, Sebastian Patti, Bert Pricen, Jim Rathert, Mary Regan (MRg), Michael Retter (MRt), William Rowe, Rick Seibert, Mike Seiffert, Al Seppi, Darrell J. Shambaugh (DJS), Jonathan Simms, James O. Smith (JOS), Jim Steffen (JSt), Douglas F. Stotz (DFS), Sheryl Swartz Soukup, M. Trapani, Jeff Walk, Eric Walters, Mike Ward, Tony Ward, Peter Weber, Chuck

Westcott, Barbara Williams, Daniel T. Williams (DTW), David Williams, Geoff Williamson.

Membership: Current members of the IORC are: Steven D. Bailey, Robert T. Chapel, Paul R. Clyne, Myrna Deaton, David B. Johnson (Vice-Secretary), Dan Kassebaum and Douglas Stotz (Secretary). Alternates on the Committee are: Richard Biss, Robert E. Fisher, Joe B. Milosevich and David Willard. Recent committee members who served during the review process were H. David Bohlen and Vernon M. Kleen

Review List: As in past reports, the Review List is provided to indicate those birds the observer might encounter that the Committee is most interested in reviewing. These are species that, in general, average four or fewer records per year in the state, or which are extremely rare in all but a few counties in the state. The current review list was approved at the 8 August 1999 Committee meeting. The IORC requests and welcomes evidence concerning all records for the review species listed on the review list on the IOS/IORC website: http: www.chias.org/ios/iorc.html. In addition, any species not listed in the checklist of Illinois state birds (1999) should be documented. Documentation of regular species may be appropriate when they occur out of season—i.e., exceptionally early arrival dates or late departure dates for migratory species. All first state nesting records should also be documented. Exceptionally high counts of species may also merit documentation.

Acknowledgements. This report is made possible by the thoughtful, careful, and timely review by all Committee members both past and current, and by the support of Illinois birders and institutions that contributed evidence of Illinois birds by specimens, documentations, photographs, and/or videotapes. Special thanks must go to David Willard (FMNH), and H. David Bohlen (ISM) for providing access to museum specimens. The Committee also thanks the following expert birders and professional ornithologists who contributed their time and knowledge to address the identification of many of the bird records in this report: Laurence C. Binford, Nancy L. Newfield, and Thomas Schulenberg.

ACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Accepted (47 records of 28 species)

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*): One in juvenile plumage at Evergreen Lake McL and WOO on 19 to 29 Dec (1998.074; MRt, DB, DO*, RCh, RHe). Second state record. Photo published (Engel 1999).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*): One at Clinton Lake DEW on 10 to 17 Dec (1999.051; RCh, MD). One at Lake Shelbyville MOU on 5 Dec (1999.053; RCh). One at Vulcan Lake McH on 18 Sep to 5 Oct (1999.043; VB, GB*, DJ, RAM). See photo and article on page 56 of this journal.

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): One sub-adult at Crabtree Lake, Barrington COO on 11 May to 5 Jun (1999.017; CF; CW). This is the tenth accepted state record for this species.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*): One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 7 Apr (1999.009; RH*). One at Gale ALE on 29 May (1999.028; MD, DK).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): One south of Rochester SAN on 27 Apr (1999.012; PW*). One at Cypress Creek NWR PUL on 22 Apr (1999.025; RM).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*): One at Horseshoe Lake CA ALE on 29 Dec (1998.086; SB). This bird was recorded on the Horseshoe Lake CBC.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*): One at Carlyle Lake FAY and BON on 16 to 31 Oct (1999.046; DK, FB, KM)

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*): One male at Clinton Lake DEW on 18 Apr (1999.013; RCh). One male in southwestern PER on 11 Apr (1999.019; BC*). One male near Lyerla Lake UNI on 10 to 11 Apr (1999.026; KM). One male in PIK on 8 May (1999.033; RCa). This last bird was seen on the SBC. Males of this species have been removed from the review list.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*): One male at Garden Prairie BOO on 10 to 14 May (1999.015; DTW*, DB). This is the second record for the state. An account and photo can be found in Williams (1999). Photos of the first Garganey in the state have also been recently published (Chapel 1999).

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Clangula islandica*): One at Mel Price Dam MAD on 24 to 26 Jan (1999.001; WR).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One at Larimore Farm VER on 14 to 16 Sep (1997.053; JOS).

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrula martinica*): One adult found dead at Flanagan McL on 5 May (1999.036; AC, spec. to Illinois State University). One at Highwood LAK on 6 to 13 May (1999.062; MT*v). One adult at Montrose, Chicago COO on 7 to 10 May (1999.014; TB*, KH*); this bird was recorded on the SBC. One adult at Ron Beese Park, Barrington COO on 26 May (1999.021; CF). One adult at Anderson Garden, Rockford WIN on 11 to 25 May (1999.023; BW, JM*). Two adults at Lake Carlyle FAY on 15 to 18 May (1999.027; MD, DK, AS*). One adult at Wilkinson-Renwick Marsh DEK on 12 to 13 May (1999.035; DJS). The unprecedented invasion by this species in May 1999 is described by Shambaugh (1999),

where photos of the Montrose and Rockford bird are published; another photo of the Montrose bird appears in NAB 53:3. Following the spring invasion—one fall juvenile was at the Daley Center, Chicago COO on 29 Sep (1999.055; RH*).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*): One in juvenile plumage at Waukegan Beach LAK on 3 Dec (1998.080; RB, DD) to 1 Jan 1999. This bird was last seen on the Waukegan CBC.

Ruff (*Philomachrus pugnax*): One juvenile at Meredosia Lake MOR on 11 Sep (1999.042; BA).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): One at Clinton Lake DEW on 31 Oct to 7 Nov (1999.050; RCh). A Pomarine Jaeger was reported at this site later in November, but not documented. It is unclear whether this may have been the same bird or a different one.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): One adult at Belmont and Montrose Harbors, Chicago, COO on 23 to 24 Jan (1999.005; GW, DFS)

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Two at Carlyle Lake CLI on 22 Dec (1997.034; MB, HDB, VK, MD, AS*). One at Newton Lake, JAS on 21 Dec (1999.063; JW*).

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): One at Montrose, Chicago COO on 26 Apr (1999.011; RH). One at Urbana CHA on 18 Oct (1999.047; RCh). These are the second and third state records.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*): One near Sanganois CA MSN on 18 Dec (1999.057; MW, TW). This bird was reported on the Crane Lake - Sangamon CBC.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): 2 to 4 individuals at Cypress Creek NWR UNI on 7 Dec (1998.090; FB) to 22 Feb 1999.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*): One male at Urbana CHA on 3 to 5 Dec (1999.054; RCh). This is the fifth confirmed record for the state.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*) One at Peoria, PEO on 15 to 20 Dec (1999.061; BP*v).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*): One at Carlyle Lake CLI on 15 May (1999.020; DK; MS*). A remarkable first Illinois and regional record. An account appears in Kassebaum (1999); a color photo is published in NAB 53: 342.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchi*): One at Waterloo MNR on 3 Jun (1999.029; DK; JM*). First record of this complex for Illinois and the region. The bird did not vocalize during the observation, which would distinguish these two species. Currently, the photos have not allowed the definitive assignment of this bird to either species. An account and photo can be found in Kassebaum (1999) and a color photo is published in NAB 53:446.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): One along St. Rte. 3 near Big Muddy River UNI on 24 Apr (1999.018; TM, SK*). One at Prairie Du Rocher RAN on 5 Jul (1999.034; DK). One near Harrisonville MNR on 8 May (1999.040; MRg). This last bird was seen on the SBC.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*): One at Morton Arboretum DUP on 31 Jan to 21 Mar (1999.003; TK*, PM*, EW*). For a photograph by EW and account of this record see Chapman (1999).

Purple Galinule found at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago, 29 September 1999. Photo by Robert Hughes.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*): Fifteen at Calumet Park, Chicago COO on 27 Jan (1999.004; DFS).

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*): Three to six individuals in northern JAS on 21 Dec (1999.060; EK). These birds were seen on the Newton CBC and are a first Illinois CBC record. The Committee would like to obtain harder evidence for any winter record for this species in the state.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*): One adult male at Bloomington McL on 19 to 22 May (1999.016; AL, SSS; MRt, DJ*, JBM*, RCh). An account and photo of this third record for the state can be found in Latham et al. (1999).

Other Accepted Records (10 records of 10 species)

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*): One at Mermet Lake MSS 16 Jan to 13 Feb (1999.007; FB*v). This is apparently the second winter record in southern Illinois (Robinson 1996).

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*): Two pairs nesting at Indian Ridge Marsh COO 20 May to 25 Jul (1999.037; WM). This is the first confirmed nesting of this species in northeastern Illinois.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): One at Alton along the Mississippi River MAD on 30 Jan to 6 Feb (1999.006; WR, JR*); recorded also in Missouri at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area during this period.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): One at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation KNE on 1 to 3 Dec (1998.093; RAM*). A photo of this rare northern Illinois winter record can be found in MJIB 8:113.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*): One at Porter Bottoms Rd. JOH on 11 Feb (1999.010; SO)

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*): One at Navy Pier, Chicago COO on 20 to 21 Oct (1999.056; SP). One feather from the undertail coverts of this bird was taken and in now housed at FMNH.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): One at Mermet Lake MSS 12-13 Feb (1999.008; FB*v). First February record for state.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*): One adult male at the Chicago Botanic Garden COO on 27 Nov to 26 Dec (1998.081; MH, JSt, AH). This bird was accompanied by a second dull-plumaged warbler that likely was an immature of this species; however, a majority of the committee felt that the written descriptions of the second bird were too incomplete and inconsistent to definitely establish its identification as this species.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*): One at Grant Park, Chicago, COO on 14 to 22 Dec (1998.083; DJ*v). This bird was seen on the Chicago Urban CBC.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*): One to two birds at Great Lakes Naval Training Center LAK 14 Nov (1999.058; RB, DJ) to 8 Jan 2000. Species seen on Waukegan CBC. This is the second winter record for northern Illinois.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS — Review List Records Unaccepted (5 records of 5 species)

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*): One at Heyworth McL on 25 to 26 Oct (1999.052). An oddly-plumaged bird, probably an eclipse male. Much of the description suggests this species but some inconsistent detail for this species suggests the possibility of a hybrid or anomolous plumage.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): One at Chain O'Lakes SP LAK on 8 May (1999.038). This report was based on size, shape, and flight profile. In the absence of any plumage detail being seen in this brief observation, the committee could not accept this record.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*): One at Exner Marsh McH on 8 May (1999.039). A majority of the committee felt that while the details were consistent with Black Rail, there were no diagnostic plumage details presented in the description.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): One in Chicago COO on 8 May (1999.022). The committee felt that inconsistencies in the description, especially just the wings and a "mask" described as black, and the fact that the observers did not use binoculars, made it uncertain that this was not a male Scarlet Tanager.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*): One at Illinois Beach SP LAK on 4 Jun (1999.030). The description provided was not clearly assignable to any species. The observer suggested that inconsistencies in the plumage were a result of the bird being in very worn plumage. But there were no diagnostic plumage characters for this species, and the description of size and shape did not fit the species.

Other Unaccepted Records (6 records of 6 species)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): One over Mississippi River near Horseshoe Lake, ALE on 3 Jan (1997.031). Possibly correct, but there was concern that limited description was insufficient to rule out various plumages of young Bald Eagles. Observers should take care to thoroughly document winter Ospreys because of the wide variation in Bald Eagle plumages.

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*): One near Enfield WHT 14 Apr (1998.031). The committee felt that the bird was correctly identified, but the majority thought it likely that this record pertained to a recently released bird, rather than a wild occurrence of this species outside of its limited range in Jasper and Marion county.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*): One first year bird at the Mallard Lake Landfill DUP on 12 Dec (1998.079). Possibly correct, but the committee felt that the details did not completely rule out Herring Gull in this difficult plumage.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*): One at Newton Lake JAS on 21 Dec (1999.059). Unfortunately, although the plumage pattern described was consistent with this species, the observer did not note the very distinctive orange-red bill color of this species. It seemed to the majority of the committee that an observation under conditions so poor that the bill color could not be determined was not acceptable for what would be the first record of this species in winter in Illinois.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*): One below Hamburg Hill UNI 4 Jan (1998.001). The brevity of the observation, together with a description of the back color as "brownish" concerned enough of the committee that the record was not accepted.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*): One photographed at Franklin Park COO in Jan (1999.002). The was no question of the identity of this bird, but the committee all thought that this was a almost certainly an escape from captivity, rather than a wild bird.

Corrigenda

White-faced Ibis: The accepted report listed as 1997.014 should be listed as 1998.014, and was seen 25 Apr to 5 May 1998, not 1997.

Barrow's Goldeneye: The accepted report listed as 1997.006 should be listed as 1998.006, and was seen on 21 Feb 1998, not 1997.

Black Rail : The unaccepted report from 26 Oct 1998 listed as 1998.023 should be listed as 1998.072.

Least Tern: The unaccepted report listed as 1997.040 should be listed as 1998.040 and was seen on 14 May 1998, not 1997.

Rufous Hummingbird: The departure date of 20 Dec for 1998.084 should be 21 Dec.

Vermilion Flycatcher: The report listed as 1998.58 should be listed as 1998.57.

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A Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) Visits Vulcan Lake in McHenry County

by Victoria M. Buchwald

Vulcan Lake, a naturally formed spring-fed lake in McHenry County, has been used for the excavation of gravel for 50 years. In November of 1999, I began birding at Vulcan Lake after hearing how good the waterfowl viewing can be there. I have not been disappointed. Since then, I have observed a nice variety of species including Common, Hooded, and Red-breasted Mergansers and all the bay diving ducks, except for Barrow's Goldeneye and Tufted Duck. Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes, Horned Grebes, and American Coots are also common. I saw three Common Loons in breeding plumage 25 March 1999.

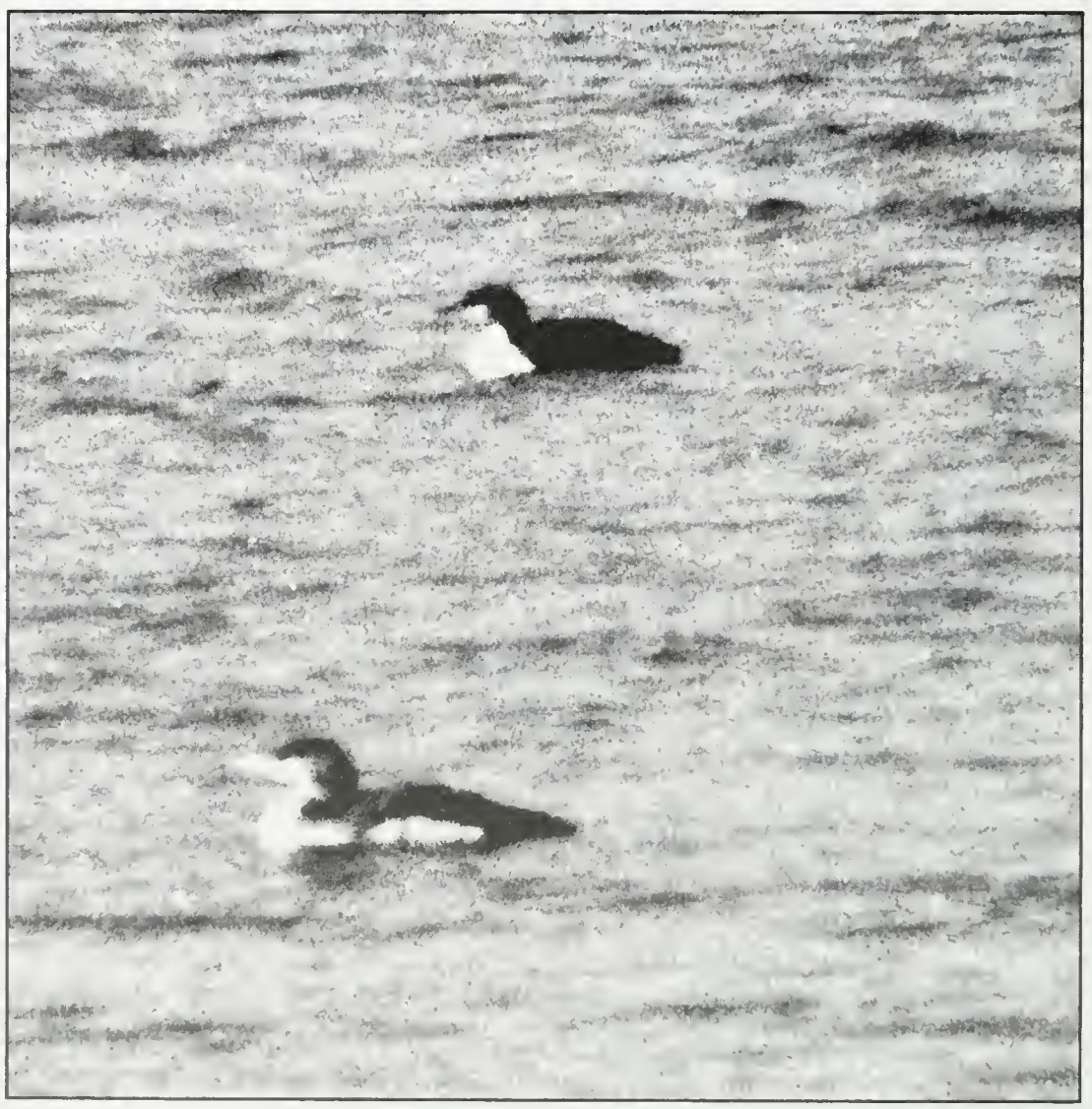
Saturday, 18 September 1999, at 6:30 p.m., I visited Vulcan Lake, a quick seven minutes from my home, hoping to see migratory Common Loons (*Gavia immer*). The sky was clear and the water was still. I brought my Celestron 8x56 Ultima binoculars and my 76 mm Takhashi refractor with a 9mm ocular, providing 67x magnification. I enjoy using this refractor as a spotting scope because it gives a clear, up-close, bright image. (I also use this telescope for amateur astronomy, another hobby of mine.) A spotting scope is required at Vulcan Lake since most observing is done at a distance of between 250 and 500 yards.

As soon as I arrived, I viewed, with binoculars, two loons in winter plumage close to shore.

Both birds preened and swam slowly on the surface of the calm water. The sun was just ready to sneak behind a hill to the southwest. I was facing north. The lighting was optimal for observing.

I then looked through my telescope and noticed one of the loons was smaller in size. Then I noticed a dark and very distinct chin strap on the smaller bird. Consulting my Peterson's Eastern Field Guide and the 2nd edition of the National Geographic Society Birds of North America, I confirmed the larger bird was indeed a Common Loon in winter plumage. The smaller bird clearly was not.

Apart from the most obvious feature of the dark chin strap, there was a sharp, vertical separation between the white and dark portions of the smaller bird's neck as compared to the ragged pattern of dark edges bordering the white portions of the Common Loon's neck. Other field marks seen were: a rounded, sleek head; a



Pacific Loon in left background with Common Loon in foreground. 19 September 1999. Vulcan Lake, McHenry County. Photo by Greg Buchwald.

gray crown and nape; a darker, almost black back with some white spots present on the scapulars; a slight eye ring; and vertical, wavy dark lines near the junctions of the side of the breast, lower side of the neck, and scapulars.

That evening at home, I consulted Kaufman (1990), which helped me rule out the possibility of an Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*). Kaufman states: "The Arctic Loon is extremely unlikely to be seen over most of North America." In winter plumage, the Arctic Loon generally lacks the dark chins strap shown by many Pacific Loons (*Gavia pacifica*). H. David Bohlen (1989) states "the American Ornithological Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature divided Arctic Loon into two species and those in Illinois are now called Pacific Loons."

My husband, Greg, and I returned to Vulcan Lake at 9 a.m. 19 September 1999 and observed the Pacific Loon in winter plumage. Again, it was with the Common Loon and the day was sunny and windless. I was now positive I had observed my first Pacific Loon. My husband photographed both birds together through the Takahashi using black and white film. Both birds dove, returned from the water, spread their wings, and preened.

I reported the sighting to the Chicago Audubon Society Hotline 20 September, thanks to R. David Johnson's suggestion. I also called several people to help confirm the sighting. Darlene Fiske of Woodstock, along with Robert Kelly, met me at Vulcan Lake on 21 September. Darlene confirmed the sighting. The bird was observed through 5 October 1999.

The sighting was early compared to records before 1989. Bohlen (1989) stated: All twelve acceptable Illinois records of the Pacific Loon are for fall, from October 29 (Horseshoe Lake, 1986; RG,BR-AB 41:94) to December 9 (Lake Springfield, 1980). At that time, all reports were from downstate.

David B. Johnson later discovered a Pacific Loon in Lake County.

Many birders observed the Pacific Loon on Vulcan Lake; I enjoyed daily pleasures of nice long views with my scope and of sharing these views with others.

Postscript: Vulcan Materials Company has recently given the City of Crystal Lake ownership of Vulcan Lake, and has begun a reclamation process. The City palns to convert the 600-acre site, including the 400 acres of water, into a recreational area. City Council members and an 11-member advisory board are debating what types of recreation will be offered on the site. How this will affect the birding here is yet to be determined.

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Little Gull (*Larsus minutus*) Summers in Lake County

by Eric Walters

During a visit to Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake County) on Memorial Day of 1999, the unusually low Lake Michigan water levels had exposed a sandbar island near the harbor mouth. This location is a summer mecca for unusual birds taking refuge on this safe island. In fact, between this date and through Labor Day, there were 20 shorebird species (including Whimbrel, Piping Plover, and Willet), 9 summering waterbird species, 4 tern species, and 7 gull species (including 2 Laughing, a Lesser Black- backed and a peak of over 100 Bonaparte's). While the unusual sightings offered excitement, I was on the hunt for a far rarer summer bird – the Little Gull (*Larus minutis*). The last time this species was found in Illinois during summer was on 16-17 July 1990, when an adult and 1st-summer plumage subadult bird were observed between Waukegan (Lake County) and Evanston (Cook County)

Little Gull. 10 July 1999. Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.

(IBB 7:50). Research showed the only place in Illinois that Little Gulls had spent extended summering time was at this same Great Lakes harbor; up to three in 1989 (IBB 6:18-19).

On 25 June 1999, while walking toward the island at Great Lakes, I noticed a smaller bird roosting among the Bonaparte's on the shoreline. After noting the small body and bill size, the dark crown, the small, dark circular mark behind the eye, black in its primary wingtips along with a dark M across its mantle, I was quickly convinced I had discovered my prize - a first summer plumaged, subadult Little Gull! During the next several weeks, many birders watched this bird, often at very close range.

What made the show even more priceless was the how the bird's body, tail, and wings changed as it molted. The molt seemed virtually complete in about 15 days; I even noted the classic 1st summer plumage in late June, but within days, it had lost nearly all of its dark M on its mantle. The black tail tip wasn't often noticed by birders and by the time the bird left on 20 July, its tail was all white. With this rapid molt sequence, it gave the appearance of a completely different bird by mid-July. After its molt was complete, the bird left and no one reported it at Great Lakes or on other nearby beaches.

Little Gull in fliglt at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Lake Couuty. 10 July 1999.Photo by Eric Walters.

Little Gull lands at Great Lakes Naval Training Center beach showing off the dark 'M' mark on its wings. It molted this mark and the black on its tail in about two weeks. 6 June 1999. Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.

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Birds of the Corn and Soybean Desert

by Steven D. Bailey

Steven D. Bailey
Photo by Peter Weber

This issue, we begin a feature in which you can participate. What do you want to know about rare or even common birds in Illinois? Interested in a particular breeding habit of a species, or the best place in the state to find one? Send your questions to Steven D. Bailey, Ornithologist, Illinois Natural History Survey, 608 E. Peabody, Champaign, IL 61820, or Email to: sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu. In each issue we'll print the answers to some of those questions. Here's our first question, followed by Steve's answer.

A Sandhill Crane stops in a field in central Illinois in March during migration. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Question:

Birders often refer to central Illinois as the corn and soybean desert, giving the impression the area is depauperate of birds. Is this really true?

Answer:

When it comes to breeding birds, monocultural crop fields such as corn and soybeans are even more depauperate than the Chihauhan and Sonoran deserts, especially if you remove Horned Lark from the equation. However, there's a surprisingly long list of Illinois species that use agricultural fields at one time or another for feeding, roosting, or breeding. For example, wheat fields may sometimes attract some species due to the structural characteristics of the crop, which simulates some grassland types. Birds that breed in wheat fields include such diverse species as Northern Harrier, Sedge Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, and Dickcissel.

Large acricultural fields placed in the Conservation Reserve Program can be especially attractive for nesting grassland species. These areas are usually fairly large (40 - 100+ acres) and have attracted such rare nesting grassland birds as Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Bobolink, Sedge Wren, and even Henslow's Sparrow.

While the state-endangered Upland Sandpiper and state-threatened Sandhill Crane do not find agricultural fields to be suitable for breeding, these species often use agricultural fields adjacent to grasslands and wetlands in which to feed during the breeding season.

Depending on what particular agricultural practices a farmer uses, additional species may breed in the "corn and soybean desert." Grassy waterways, terracing, and other erosion-preventative practices can be attractive to some grassland species including Eastern and Western Meadowlarks and Grasshopper, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows, though their ability to raise young there is tenuous. First, they are more susceptible to predation and parasitism in such fragmented habitats. Secondly, farmers in the Midwest, especially in southern Illinois, tend to delay planting for various reasons, causing their fields to act as ecological traps for grassland sparrows, meadowlarks, and Horned Larks. When the birds arrive in spring, they begin setting up territories in fields that have not yet been prepared for planting. Often farmers will plow or plant fields in the middle of these birds' nesting cycles. Farm practices then not only disrupt the bird's breeding cycle, but also leave the birds with no other place to start another brood. So where do these birds go?

Some birders have noticed species such as Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Sedge Wren, and others appear in the middle of the breeding season in areas they hadn't been found earlier. These birds may be those that got ousted out of habitat such as previously mentioned, or due to other agricultural practices such as early repeated mowing for hay. Farmers used to mow for hay once or twice per season; they now try to get three, four, or more each summer, making things even more difficult for birds that attempt to breed in croplands.

Late-arriving Illinois breeders such as the Sedge Wren raise some interesting questions. Are these birds wandering to find suitable breeding habitat after being kicked out of hay and wheat fields farther north? Or is late breeding natural for this species? And if so, where did they spend the first part of the breeding season?

Grassland birds may be opportunistic in their habitat and timing choices during the breeding season. Their choices may be due to historical patterns of how fire and bison-grazing drastically altered habitats in any given year or in any given area.

Migration and Winter

The picture does appear to be a little brighter in the corn and soybean desert during migration and winter. Some are more common in spring, especially wet springs, while others are more common in fall and winter. Although not what it once was when this part of the country was filled with prairie potholes, fallow corn and soybean fields that still contain wet spots (e.g., have not been tiled or otherwise drained) still attract a wide variety of waterfowl and shorebirds. Virtually any migratory shorebird can and has appeared in wet fields. For example, in May 1986, I observed the sixth state record of a Curlew Sandpiper in a soybean field that was once a prairie pothole.

More common shorebirds using the fields in spring include both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, and American Golden-Plover. This species seems to prefer soybean stubble fields for feeding and roosting. Illinois may very well fall within the nation's major staging area for migrating golden-plovers. It remains unclear what the plovers are eating, although it could be the larval stage of some insect. By eating these pests, the plovers could be helping farmers.

Sandhill Cranes often feed in cornfields during migration.

The central Illinois corn and soybean desert regularly hosts flocks of 2,000 to 5,000 American Golden-Plovers. Typically, birders find flocks of from 50 to 500 plovers.

The bulk of another species' global population also occurs in Illinois agricultural fields during spring migration. It is the coveted Smith's Longpsur. This species favors several types of foxtails for feeding. The foxtails are considered the bane of farmers because their stems get twisted and bound in combines. Perhaps American Golden-Plovers and Smith's Longspurs can be economically important in ridding fields of pests and weeds. Bobolinks and other blackbirds, on the other hand, are considered pests by farmers. Bobolinks are known as "rice birds" in southern United States, because they gorge on rice before departing for their South American wintering grounds.

Agricultural fields also provide incidental breeding as well as roosting and feeding habitat for a number of species during migration and winter. A central Illinois farmer has found Indigo Buntings and other species placing nests in soybean fields close to edge-type habitats with which the species is normally associated. American Robins also use cornfields, but not for food. Large numbers of them use the fields for roosting sites.

European Starlings and species in the blackbird family, and sometimes even orioles, feed in agricultural fields, harvested or unharvested, in winter and during migration. Thousands of American Crows, too, will settle into a harvested field to partake of left-over crops. Flocks of swallows also cruise agricultural fields during migration for insects, and Blue Jays will cache waste grains, especially corn, in fall. American Pipits feed along edges of wet agricultural fields by the hundreds, mostly in spring and late fall/early winter. All five species of geese, all puddle ducks, and all

The American Pipit feeds along edges of wet agricultural fields by the hundreds during migration. Photo by Peter Weber.

gallinaceous species that have occurred in the state and even birds of prey such as Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, and Great Horned Owl feed in agricultural fields – some of these year-round, some in winter, and some during migration.

Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte's, and Franklin's Gulls also feed in agricultural fields. Gulls often follow farmers' tractors as they plow and till, kicking up larvae for a spring meal. Cattle Egrets and other herons also use wet agricultural fields for feeding.

One family of birds most Illinois birders would not associate with agricultural fields, but which regularly use them, is the rail family. Birders Jim Smith and Jim Funk, two central Illinois farmers, regularly encounter migratory Sora and Virginia Rail, when mowing hayfields in spring and fall. Smith and Funk also occasionally encounter the rare Yellow and Black Rails in spring and fall. The birds flush ahead of their tractors. One of the best places to see Yellow Rail in the United States is the rice fields of Louisiana during harvest time when the birds flush ahead of the combines. In the case of the Black Rail, "agricultural meadows" could serve as breeding habitat. This species historically bred in wet hayfields in central Illinois.

Common and widespread species including Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees, Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and occasionally Indigo Bunting, regularly feed in standing corn stubble near woodlands. They are likely feeding on insects, while Red-headed Woodpeckers often feed on left-over corn. Loggerhead Shrikes search for mice and insects in the grassy strips along agricultural fields. In winter, hardy species such as Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting find sustenance eating waste corn and soybeans.

Surprisingly, many species of warblers have been found in the corn and soybean deserts of Illinois. However, some are more regularly encountered than others. These include Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. These are four of the most common warblers in the U.S. and have wider food palates than other warblers. Most of their feeding opportunities occur along the edges of agricultural fields, where they meet forest.

This might seem like a long list of species, but in reality you'd be hard-pressed to find more than a half dozen species on any given day in any one agricultural field in Illinois. And on an average day in the Sonoran Desert near Tucson, a birder could easily see two dozen species or more. Illinois can enhance its corn and soybean desert to help birds. Good farming practices could, in fact, enhance the value of agricultural lands not only for the farmer, but also for the birds species that use them.

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Chicago Urban Birding:
Site Guide for A Dynamite Downtown Hot Spot

by Christine Williamson

Chicago is one of the few cities in the U.S. where birding mixes easily and unobtrusively with business and shopping, two of the most common reasons people visit the Windy City.

Here is a site guide to a downtown hot spot area close to the business hotels and world-class shopping. The Water Tower area consistently attracts and holds excellent migrating bird species, everything from Connecticut, Mourning, and Hooded Warblers to a good variety of sparrows to vagrants such as Bewick's Wren to unexpected Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Leave your car behind, walk, and enjoy the birding as well as luxurious amenities such as multiple Starbuck's locations, a Ghiradelli's Ice Cream Parlour just feet away from Connecticut Warbler Heaven and the posh Ritz-Carleton Hotel (with very nice bathrooms, indeed).

In two hours, you have the chance to see a wide range of migrating species concentrated in narrow patches and strips of green along Chicago's lakefront. Because feeding and resting habitat is so scarce in this part of downtown Chicago, birds are more likely to stay in these pockets of green space all day than they are at other lakefront birding sites. While birding is better in the morning, as it always is, these two spots remain productive all day.

The Water Tower area is best for birding within major migration periods – primarily the end of March to the beginning of June and mid-August through the beginning of November. Outside of migration, it is usually the domain of House Sparrows, although White-throated Sparrows are to be found most of the winter in the vicinity. One White-throated Sparrow was still singing in the Streeterville neighborhood on 9 June 2000.

So toss your binoculars into your brief case and follow these steps to excellent birding before the first session of your business conference. Don't worry, you'll probably be finished by the time Neiman Marcus opens its doors onto Michigan Avenue. But do beware. If you happen to be lucky enough to bird this area on a "fall-out" day, when weather and calendar transpire to deliver a morning when birds literally drip from the trees, you might be late to your meeting.

The Water Tower Area

The route begins at the north end of what's known as the Magnificent Mile, the stretch of Michigan Avenue north of the river that is home to the world's most exclusive fashion designers. Amid Gucci, Chanel, Lauren, and all the top designers, is one of the Chicagoland area's best migrant spots. The Water Tower area encompasses a section north of the Chicago River, south of Oak Street, and centering around Chicago Avenue.

Start at the park, which hugs the curve of Lake Shore Drive's familiar "S" Curve, across from the Drake Hotel (where Princess Diana once stayed), just east of the intersection of Oak Street and Michigan Avenue. The 151, 145, and 146 Chicago Transit Authority buses run along Michigan Avenue north to south. The 125 bus services Michigan Avenue from both Metra train stations (Union Station and

The combination of tall trees and low ground cover make Water Tower Park a magnet for migrants. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in the tree above the Borders sign.

the Northwestern Madison Street Station.)You can also take the CTA Red Line (Howard) subway to the Chicago Avenue stop and walk the short distance to Oak and Michigan Avenue.

If you must drive, the easiest place to find parking is on Oak Street east of Michigan Avenue. Park on the north side of the street across from the Drake Hotel.

The park at the "S" Curve of Lake Shore Drive can be excellent for migrants - warblers, sparrows, thrushes, wrens, kinglets, even rails. Check all the low-lying bushes at the west end of the park where a Bewick's Wren was seen in 1991. The fruiting trees on the south side of this small park can also be great. Walk east across the open area with the benches, checking the tops of tall trees and also, the grassy area immediately adjacent to Lake Shore Drive where every common and several rarer sparrows have been seen, including Clay, LeConte's, Nelson's Sharp-tailed, and Harris's. Check the horseshoe-shaped flowerbed that closes off the open area carefully – Virginia and Sora Rail, many Mourning and Connecticut Warblers, and all the thrushes have been seen in this bed and behind it, under the lower crabapple trees.

Slow and deliberate movements yield good birds here, as well as at the other sites described. Take your time and listen for movement, song, and chip notes above the constant roar from Lake Shore Drive. Watch the little caves created by overhanging shrubs, taller flowers, and even broad-leaved plants, such as hostas. As strange as it sounds, when downtown, Connecticut Warblers LOVE hostas. These warblers rarely leave the ground and crawl under and around hosta leaves, sometimes completely disappearing within a dense clump of this ornamental plant.

Connecticut and Mourning Warblers favor the low ground cover in the flower beds at Seneca Park.

Return west to Michigan Avenue, cross to the west side of the street and walk south (turn right). Check the courtyard of the Fourth Presbyterian Church (west side of street two blocks down). Warblers, sparrows, and thrushes use the bushes around the perimeter of the courtyard and canopy feeders can be found in the few tall trees. A Brown Thrasher wintered all through one very icy winter here, helped by the Rector's seed feeder. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have ringed the trees in this small park with their telltale scars.

Continue south on Michigan Avenue to Pearson Street (Borders is on the corner). The park surrounding the old Water Tower can yield Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, sometimes in relatively high numbers, although a lot of construction in the area has diminished its viability for birds in the short-term. The park is being landscaped and there is no reason to believe it won't return to productivity, once low shrubs and groundcover plants and flowers have been established. The tall trees in this park have been preserved and provide a dense canopy for more arboreal species. The trees are not especially healthy, making them popular hosts for insects, and of course, an insect banquet fuels many migrant birds.

A slow and careful study of the low plant beds will yield some birds, but the tree tops always reward a patient birder. Every common warbler has been seen here, as well as most of the vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and Common Nighthawk. A Northern Saw-whet Owl slept through the day one April in a tree right across the street from Border's bookstore. Bats frequently roost in the trees - hanging or clinging to the bark. While it is preferable for cities to use native plants in their green spaces to provide better food and cover for wildlife, the fact remains that migrating birds will use what plant cover they find in an urban jungle, and the Water Tower Park seems to provide some of what migrating birds need en route.

Use the restroom and get coffee upstairs at Border's if needed. This is the quickest bathroom break in the area. If it's afternoon, you can grab a decadent cone or sit down for a sinful sundae at Ghiradelli's Ice Cream Parlour, just west of Border's on Pearson Street.

Return to Pearson Street, cross back over Michigan Avenue and walk east past the other old, yellow limestone Water Tower Building. Check the grass you can see on the right through the back gate of the building for thrushes. Past this driveway is another driveway that leads to the fire station parking lot. Check the fenced-in corner of the play lot - the woodchips and (relative) remoteness attract tons of sparrows, warblers, and thrushes.

Check all the bushes along the wrought iron fence. Walk to the back of the fire station slowly, and check the

small grassy area east of the fire station building, inside the wrought iron fence and especially, the wood chips inside the fence further south, along the play lot. This is Wood Thrush Heaven. Check under the bushes inside the fence that border a bricked seating area. Check the crab apples inside the fence for warblers and sapsuckers. Walk west past the building and check the other grassy courtyard on the other side. A Harris's Sparrow was here in 1998. Many sparrows, warblers, and thrushes use this area, and sometimes the firemen have a bird bath set up to attract birds.

Go back out to Pearson, walk a short distance east, and enter Seneca Park through the gate on the right. The bushes inside the playlot fence harbor many Connecticut and Mourning Warblers at the right time of year. During late spring and especially in the fall, this is arguably the most reliable spot in Chicago for Mourning and Connecticut Warblers. I stopped counting at 18 Connecticut Warblers in one 90 minute period on a September fallout day in 1998 in the vicinity of this park.

The tall trees are warbler and bat magnets. Every expected species has been seen in the bushes, on the grass, and in the tree tops. Pay careful attention to the low plantings. Connecticut Warblers act like mice and can disappear easily. They frequent the cave under the yew bushes along the play lots, and have been known to walk over picnickers' feet.

Enter the gate on the right to the play lots. Check the bricked seating area and under all the bushes and the area past the fence to the west. If there aren't too many children around, the birds use the wood chips on either play lot all the time. Exit the play lots back to the park and check the bushes on the right and the grass to the left.

Retrace your steps north and turn right to go through the park to the east. Check all the plantings for warblers and sparrows. Cross Mies Van Der Rohe and go up the steps to the Museum of Contemporary Art. Ask to bird watch in the courtyard. They'll let you. Go all the way out onto the terrace. The bushes on either side of this fenced-in courtyard hold lots of birds, as does the grass in the middle. The gravel drains poorly on the left side of the terrace and the puddle that's usually there attracts birds. A diverse mix of birds is often seen bathing together in the puddle, birds not often seen bathing in the wild or suburban backyards. On one red-letter day in the spring of 2000, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was bathing near a male Northern Cardinal and a male Eastern Towhee, for a trio of blush-colored birds that paused the forks of diners at the museum's upper-level terraced cafe.

Exit the museum and continue east on Pearson. Listen and check the tall trees on this block. They are warbler magnets. Turn right at the end of the MOCA courtyard fence and scan the courtyard from this angle. Check the low yew bushes inside the fence for migrating warblers. Also check the flowerbed to the left inside the Lake Shore park, along the running track and outside the fence of the tennis courts. A Clay-colored Sparrow wintered here one year, living off daily bird seed dumps from Streeterville human neighbors.

Continue south to Chicago Avenue and walk a little east (turn left). Enter the park on the left through the open gate. Walk east on the running track and check the open area of grass, which has had great sparrows, meadowlarks, and daytime strolling Soras. Exit the park on the east side and skirt the south side (right side) of the park building. This grass and the low crabapple trees are also great for migrants. Walk around the building and check the playlot on the north side of the building. Scan the lake to the east for ducks, gulls, jaegers, and sometimes, hawks. An eye to the west sky can also turn up hawks if the winds are right. Sightings of Peregrine Falcons are not uncommon in this neighborhood.

You'll find public restrooms in the park building, the last chance if you want to stop before returning to your car.

Go back west on Pearson on the north side of the street. The yew hedges along the buildings' foundations can be productive, and the tall trees are good for warblers, flycatchers, and woodpeckers. American Crows nest in the tall trees on Pearson Street. Keep checking all the trees until you reach Michigan Avenue.

Turn right to return north to your car at Oak Street or hop on a north or south bound bus.

If you have more time, turn left to go south along Michigan and then left or east along Superior, Huron, or Erie Streets. Wander to the inner drive along Lake Michigan, pausing to check any patch of green, any low bushes or tall treetops. A small park outside the Veteran's Hospital on the southeast corner of Columbus and Erie, for example, has dense, low vegetation inside the fence and a row of tall trees, which can be quite good feeding areas for migrants. Just wander the neighborhood with your eyes open. If it's a fall-out day, you'll be kept very busy as you traverse the Northwestern University Hospital and campus buildings, which are well-landscaped and offer attractive small oases for migrating birds.

When you reach the inner drive (and can see Lake Michigan across the inner and outer drives), turn left and proceed north along the inner drive. Check low bushes and plantings and grassy areas for feeding birds. Check the lake for ducks and gulls. The inner drive will curve west and become Oak Street, returning you to your car, the bus, or the El.

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Chicago, IL

Birds of a Feather:
The Chicago Ornithological Society

The Chicago Ornithological Society (COS) is possibly the oldest birding organization in Illinois. Founded in 1912, COS originally admitted only professional ornithologists as members. Today, the group welcomes anyone with an interest in birds and birding. COS has evolved into a casual, friendly club of about 250 members from Chicagoland. Many members are serious birders, but programs, field trips and special identification workshops appeal to and educate all levels of birders. Field Trip Chair Jenny Vogt said, "The first thing you'll notice about COS is the friendliness: everyone loves to share their knowledge, ID tips, scope, lens cleaner, even a granola bar!"

Programs and services

COS is especially proud of its success in developing educational programs aimed at making beginners and experts alike better birders. The club offers frequent classes focusing on warblers, shorebirds, hawks, bird songs and the like, taught by COS members. Classes vary in length from one to several sessions and may include a field trip. Class fees are nominal.

COS also has a growing library of books and videos that members may borrow. All rental proceeds go toward expanding the library. COS also offers an "Introduction to Birding" class to the general public several times a year. This free, three-hour class is held at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Lincoln Park and includes a classroom discussion with slides and a bird walk.

COS' monthly meetings, held at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, start with brief tips for tricky bird identifications such as gulls, sparrows or peeps, and sharing of the latest sightings and stories. "You'll hear about the lifer Red-cockaded Woodpecker as well as confessions of birders lured into a marsh by a duck decoy," said Vogt.

The evening's program often brings in famous speakers like Jon Dunn, Kenn Kaufman, Brian Patteson, and Jim Danzenbaker, with presentations on migration, nesting studies, confusing fall warblers, and stories from the field. Travelogues are another program option; guest speakers explore various regions from Central America or Africa to Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Field trips

COS holds about 40 field trips a year, at birding spots near and far. Local destinations include the Chicago lakefront several times during spring migration for passerines and again in the winter for gulls and ducks; annual trips to the Lake Calumet area and the sod farms south of Chicago for shorebirds; and regular visits to area forest preserves. Farther afield, the club travels to the Mississippi River for eagles; Concordia College north of Mil-

A brief pause in COS's hardcore birding trip to Southern Illinois, July 2000

waukee for hawks; and regional lakes for ducks, loons, and grebes.

"We get up earlier to go birding than we do for work," said Vogt, "but some of these trips just can't be missed, like Walter's annual rails trip or the 3 a.m. 'owl prowl.'" Trip leaders are usually COS members and attendance is free. Long distance trip costs are shared among participants, and birders of all ability levels are welcomed.

Conservation activities

COS has been involved in conservation throughout its nearly 100-year history. In the late 1930s, COS old-timers Karl Bartel and Al Reuss were active bird banders and conservationists, documenting the distribution and decline of breeding and migrating birds in the Chicago area. Many COS members who are active conservationists today were influenced by Karl and Al, among them Walter Marcisz, Al Welby, Marianne Hahn, Wes Serafin, and Christine Williamson.

COS is a founding member of the Bird Conservation Network, a coalition of birding and environmental organizations in Chicagoland. COS Conservation Chair Christine Williamson said, "COS members are among BCN's most active volunteers. Through BCN, COS has leveraged the support of its members for bird conservation in a network of 15 organizations representing nearly 50,000 people in northeastern Illinois."

As a group and as individuals, COS members are active volunteers in many bird conservation efforts:

• Lobbying for additional public land acquisition by county forest preserve districts, the state of Illinois and many municipalities.

• Habitat management and enhancement projects all along the Illinois shore of Lake Michigan, most notably at Montrose Point, the Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary, North Pond and the south shore parks.

• This summer, COS members lead weekly bird walks at the North Pond in Lincoln Park to introduce Chicagoans to the miracle of neotropical bird migration. North Pond is a quality birding spot that has undergone major habitat enhancement, thanks to tireless work by COS member Veronica Cook.

• Wes Serafin has been dogged in his insistence that Cook County Forest Preserve staff protect and manage important bird areas in the Palos area.

• Walter Marcisz's total dedication to habitat protection in the Lake Calumet area is legendary.

Communications

All COS members receive *The Chicago Birder* newsletter bi-monthly, featuring birding news from the Chicagoland area, including a calendar of field trips, upcoming programs, classes and activities. Rare sightings and site guides to unique places nearby are also featured.

Part of the fun of birding is "chasing" rarities and the COS-sponsored listserve IBET ("Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts") links birders throughout the state for that purpose and more. Subscribers share rare sightings, trip reports and lively discussions about birds and behavior (both ornithological and human). To subscribe to IBET, visit the COS website at *www.chicagobirder.org*, where you'll also learn about upcoming field trips, meetings and classes, review the latest IBET posts, and check out links to other birding.

If you're the low-tech type, COS keeps you informed of hot birds via the COS phone chain. When a rare bird is called into the hotline at 708-378-5321, those on the phone chain get an alert call with location and other details.

To join COS

Membership is $20 for an individual, $25 for a family and $15 for students. You can join the Chicago Ornithological Society on-line at *www.chicagobirder.org*; via e-mail to *membership@chicagobirder.org*; or by calling 312-409-9678.

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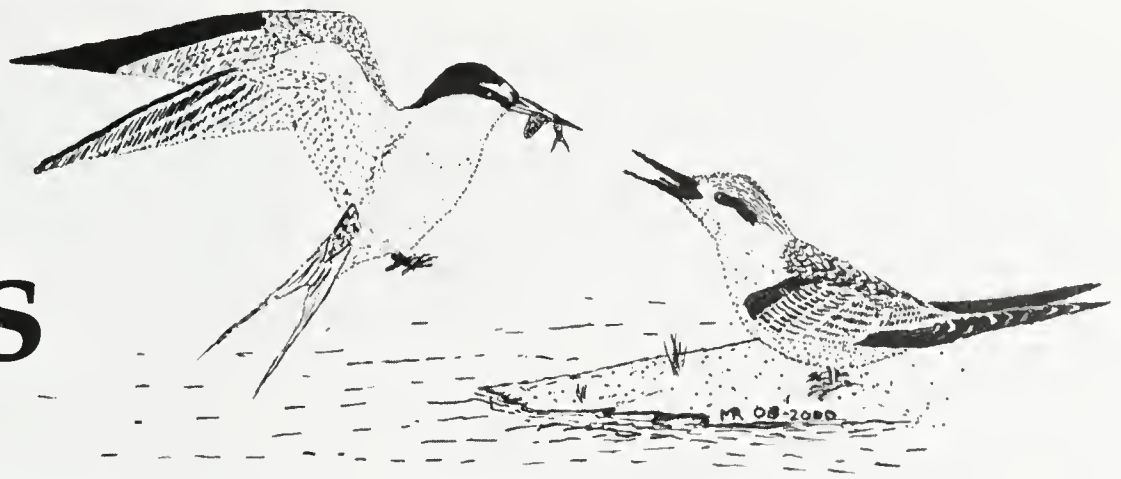
Field Notes



Drawing of Least Terns by Michael Retter.

The 1999 Fall Migration

by Robert T. Chapel

Continuing from the previous summer, the fall was both unusually warm and unusually dry. The near-drought conditions created extensive shorebird habitat in many areas. The warm, dry weather extended to the end of the period, and migration seemed to be drawn out, with few peak days. At the end of the period, many birds were still migrating. Waterfowl migration came late, with the largest numbers seen toward the end of the period. The main flight of geese had not arrived by the beginning of December. Most passerines were reported in expected numbers. Notable late migrants included a **Chuck-will's-widow** on 20-21 Oct inside Chicago's Navy Pier (see seasonal highlights); a Canada Warbler in Urbana on 27 Oct; and an American Redstart in Urbana on 5 Nov. American Pipits are now found regularly on Christmas Bird Counts in southern Illinois. However, a flock of 23 at Lake Shelbyville's Fishhook Wildlife Management Area indicates this species should be expected more often in central Illinois as well. Swallows concentrated on downstate lakes, with an amazing **300,000** Tree Swallows at Carlyle Lake on 2 Oct. Lapland Longspurs were also common downstate, including, oddly, hundreds feeding over the surface of Clinton Lake in early November. Downstate, Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their expansion, especially in southern Illinois, with several reports, including multiple birds.

The extensive mudflats created by droughtlike conditions throughout the state produced concentrations of shorebirds, but often only briefly until the various areas dried up. Consequently, prime areas for shorebirding tended to shift from one locale to another over the course of the fall. As usual, the highest concentrations of shorebirds were in the Illinois River Valley, particularly Chautauqua Lake. Many of the state high counts were again reported from there. The best shorebird of the season was a **Ruff** (pending acceptance) found at Meredosia Lake (Morgan County).

Despite the warm weather, there were early signs of this being a good year for eruptive species. Red-breasted Nuthatches showed up early and in good numbers and continued to be found in fairly good numbers throughout the period, perhaps representing a normal eruption. Pine Siskins also showed up in fairly good numbers in what appeared to be a typical eruption. White-winged Crossbills also look like a part of a pattern of eruption, as many more sightings than in the last several years were reported. Other irruptive species, such as Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks, were reported, but only in the minimal numbers that occur in non-invasion years. Note that the winter season included some nice numbers of White-winged Crossbills. (See winter season field notes in the next issue.) The big news among irruptive species was made by **Northern Shrikes**. Numerous reports were received (and many others were on the online chat networks) from both northeastern Illinois and central Illinois, indicating there may be a record or near-record year for Northern Shrikes. This trend continued through winter and will be examined further in Vol 9 No. 3 of *Meadowlark*.

Another group that occurred in unprecedented numbers is one that is not normally thought of as irruptive: Jaegers, possibly of all three species, were reported throughout the state during the fall season. Reports were especially numerous from Lake Michigan and downstate's Carlyle Lake. As usual, many sightings were left undocumented and not identified to species. Possibly one or even two **Long-tailed Jaegers** occurred at Carlyle Lake; the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) has not admitted this species to the Illinois list; a vote is pending.

In addition to birds mentioned above, good finds this past season, include **Pacific Loons** at Vulcan Lake (McHenry County), Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie County), and Clinton Lake (DeWitt County); **Eurasian Wigeon** at Carlyle Lake; a **Purple Gallinule** found dead at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago; **Pomarine Jaeger** at Clinton Lake; **White-winged Dove** at Urbana; and a **Rufous Hummingbird** at Urbana. Most of these records are pending IORC review. An account of the Vulcan Lake Pacific Loon, accepted by IORC, featured in this issue. Also see the Sixth IORC Report in this issue.

A special thanks is extended to all contributors to this report, who are listed here in full and by initials following each observation: Cindy Alberico, Robert Adams, William Atwood, Dave Bohlen, Frank Bennett, Nancy Bent, Steve Bailey, Vicki Buchwald, Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund (R&SBj), Elizabeth Chato, Jack Cochran, Karin Cassel, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Scott Carpenter, Donald Dann, Glyn Dawson, Myrna Deaton, Pete Dunne, Alan Eisner, Josh Engel, Carolyn Fields, Sue Frisia, Karen Fisher, Robert Fisher, Ellen Heilbecker, Frank Holmes, Jim Hampson, Leroy Harrison, Robert Hughes, Scott Hickman, Dave Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Greg Lambeth, James Landing, Keith McMullen, Richard Messenger, Thomas May, Vince Moxon, Walter Marcisz, Cynthia McKee (CMc), John McKee (JMc), John McDaniel, Rhonda S. Monroe, Helen Parker, Roy Peterson, Sebastian Patti, Adam Reyburn, Elaine Regehr, Helen Ritter, Justin Rink, Jennette S. Rader, Kevin Richmond, Michael Retter, Roger Reason, William Rowe, Al Stokie, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Gerda Schild, Illinois Ornithological Society, James O. Smith, Joe Suchecki, Leonard Stanley, Wes Serafin, Douglas F. Stotz, Craig Thayer, Robert Vaiden, Christine Williamson, Dan Williams, Eric Walters, Geoffrey Williamson, Helen Wuestenfeld, Pat Ward, Gilbert P. Waldbauer, Jim Ziebol.

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

EA	=	earliest arrival(s)
MC	=	maximum count(s)
LD	=	latest departure(s)
SBC	=	Spring Bird Count (8 May 1999)
*	=	documented record
ph.	=	photographed
m.ob.	=	many observers
ad.	=	adult
subadult	=	subadult
imm.	=	immature
pr	=	pair(s)
CA	=	Conservation Area
FP	=	Forest Preserve
FWA	=	Fish & Wildlife Area
L	=	Lake
L&D	=	Lock and Dam
NWR	=	National Wildlife Refuge
R	=	River
SP	=	State Park
IORC	=	Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

Transparent directionals such as ea. = east(ern), ne. = northeast(ern), so. = south(ern), etc., are used where relevant. When information on counts greater than one, on sexes, and/or on ages of birds observed is available, it is generally included in parentheses after the date of the record. No number signifies single birds. Headings for species requiring IORC review appear in **CAPITALIZED, UNDERLINED, AND BOLDFACED** fonts; records that are still under review are noted at the end of this report. Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are **underlined and boldfaced**, and some further editorial remarks are **boldfaced**.

The 1996 DeLorme *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of most place names. Remarks on the import of records are informed largely by Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and the subsequently published Illinois journals.

Arcola	=	Arcola (Douglas Co)
Carl.L	=	Carlyle L (Clinton Co unless noted otherwise)
CBG	=	Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co)
Chau	=	Chautauqua NWR (Mason Co)
Chi	=	Chicago (Cook Co)
Clin.L	=	Clinton L (De Witt Co)
CrabOr	=	Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co)
CypCrk	=	Cypress Creek NWR/Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co)
Decatur	=	Decatur (Macon Co)
Deer G East/West	=	Deer Grove East/West FP, Palatine (Cook Co)
Evanston	=	Evanston (Cook Co)
GrantP	=	Grant Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
GrtLakes	=	Great Lakes Naval Training Center, North Chicago (Lake Co)
Heron Pond	=	Heron Pond National Park (Johnson Co)
HL	=	Horseshoe L SP (Madison Co)
IBSP	=	Illinois Beach SP (Lake Co)
IL	=	Illinois
JP	=	Jackson Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Kidd L	=	Kidd L Marsh (Monroe Co)
La Salle L	=	La Salle L (La Salle Co)
LCal	=	L Calumet area (southern Cook Co)
LShel	=	L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co unless noted otherwise)
M.View	=	Moraine View SP (McLean Co)
Mermet L	=	Mermet L CA (Massac Co)
Montrose	=	Montrose Harbor area, Chicago (Cook Co)
MsPal	=	Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co)
Palos	=	Palos area (southwest Cook Co)
Pomona	=	Pomona (Jackson Co)
Pr.Rdg	=	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
Rockford	=	Rockford (Winnebago Co)
Shab.L	=	Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co)
Spfld	=	Springfield (Sangamon Co)
UCCA	=	Union Co CA (Union Co)
Urbana	=	Urbana (Champaign Co)
Wauk	=	Waukegan (Lake Co)
Wilmette	=	Wilmette (Cook Co)
WlkRen Marsh	=	Wilkinson-Renwick Marsh (De Kalb Co)

1999 FALL MIGRATION FIELD NOTES

Red-throated Loon

EA: 4 Nov, Carl.L (LH); 4-27 Nov, Clin.L (KM, m.ob.; some observers felt there was more than one bird involved). **LD:** 1 Dec, JP (PC); 26 Nov, Rend L (FB). **Others:** 9 Nov, Chau (KM); 13 Nov, Carl.L (WR); 20 Nov, IBSP (AS, SH); 20 Nov, Highland Park (Lake Co) (VM, CF); 21 Nov, Winnetka (Cook Co) (GW), 21-22 Nov, HL (FH); 22 Nov, Kenilworth (Cook Co) (JE); 26 Nov, Winnetka (Cook Co) (AS).

PACIFIC LOON

EA: 18 Sep - 5 Oct, Vulcan L (McHenry Co) (*VB-ph, *KM, *DJ, *RAM). See seasonal highlight and IORC report in this issue.

Common Loon

EA: 27 Sep, JP (PC); 27 Sep, Lake Co (KM); 3 Oct, Carl.L (WR); 23 Oct (ad. breeding plumage), Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 30, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK); 21, Clin.L, 14 Nov (RC); 15, Evanston, 2 Nov (EW). To end of period.

Pied-billed Grebe

EA: 18 Jul, Middle Fork R FP (Champaign Co) (RC); 28 Jul, Arcola (RC). **MC:** **300**, Clin.L, 17 Oct (RC); 125, Carl.L, 2 Oct (KM).

Horned Grebe

EA: 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 65, JP, 12 Nov (SC, KC); 50+, Clin.L, 14 Nov (RC); 47, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK). To end of period

Red-necked Grebe

EA: 24 Oct, Evanston (EW). **MC:** 2, Wilmette, 6 Nov (MR, EW, JR). **LD:** 19-28 Nov, LSNucPlnt (JH, *CMc, m.ob.). **Other:** 7 Nov, Evanston (RC).

Eared Grebe

EA: 17 Oct, IBSP (AS)—scarce this fall.

Western Grebe

EA: 1-4 Nov, Clin.L (MR, RC). **LD:** 20 Nov, Carl.L (LH).

American White Pelican

EA: 6 Aug (3), Rend L (FB). **MC:** **3500**, MTwain, 23 Nov (HW); **1768**, Chau (incl. Clear L), 21 Oct (R&SBj). **Other:** 20 Oct, LincP (SF).

Double-crested Cormorant

MC: 8000, Carl.L, 2 Oct (DK); 4905, **Chau**, 7 Oct (R&SBj)—among the highest counts away from Carl.L in recent years. To end of period.

Least Bittern

LD: 12 Sep, Arcola (RC); 31 Aug, Des Plaines R Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co) (SH).

Great Blue Heron

MC: 225, Chau, 2 Sep (R&SBj); 150, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 Jul (KM); 150, Carl.L, 28 Aug (DK).

Great Egret

MC: 1200, Chau, 21 Aug (RC); 169, Huse L (La Salle Co), 21 Aug (C&JMc). **LD:** 14 Nov, Lake Forest (Lake Co) (RP).

Snowy Egret

EA: 6 Aug, Middle Fork R FP (Champaign Co) (RC). **MC:** 75, Madison Co, 10 Sep (FH); 11, Huse L (La Salle Co), 21 Aug (C&JMc). **Others (north):** 29 Aug - 6 Sep (1 to 3), LCal (WM, JL, GW).

Little Blue Heron

EA: 27 Jul (imm.), JP (PC, KC). **MC:** 100, Chau, 21 Aug (RC); 50+, Fishhk, 7 Aug (RC); 15, LCal, 8 Aug (JL). **LD:** 16 Sep, St. Clair Co (KM).

Cattle Egret

EA: 16 Jul (2), MTwain (EH). **MC:** 130, St. Clair Co, 8 Aug (FH). **LD:** 6 Sep, St. Clair Co (KM).

Green Heron

EA: 25 Aug (2), JP (PC). **MC:** 5, Carl.L, 13 Sep (KM). **LD:** 28 Sep (ad.), JP (PC); 23 Sep, Carl.L (KM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

MC: 40, Chau, 9 Sep (R&SBj); 20, HL, 14 Nov (KM). **LD:** 11 Dec (imm.), JP (KC); 26 Nov (11), Madison Co (FH).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

EA: 30-31 Jul, Sugar River FP (Winnebago Co) (DW). **LD:** 8 Sep (ad.), JP (KC, PC). **Other:** 21 Aug - 6 Sep (imm.), LCal (WM, GW).

Black Vulture

MC: **100+**, Johnson Co, 1 Nov (FB)—apparently a **single-observer high count for IL**, exceeded only by a tally of 101 on the 1997 Cypress Creek Christmas Bird Count, but there are virtually no published fall data on this species.

Turkey Vulture

MC: **250+**, Newton L (Jasper Co), 15 Oct (LH); 80, Fishhk, 15 Aug (RC). **LD:** 13 Nov, Will Co (C&JMc).

Greater White-fronted Goose

MC: 59, Chau, 17 Nov (R&SBj); 47, Rend L, 13 Oct (LH).

Snow Goose

EA: **13 Aug** (3 blue), Chau (SB); **19 Aug** (2), Rend L (KM)—**record early arrivals**, correlated with significant northerly weather fronts; the earliest previous fall date is 4 Sep 1994. **MC:** 3000, Carl.L, 27 Nov (DK); 130, JP, 4 Nov (SC); 98 (33 white), Chau, 29 Oct (R&SBj).

Ross's Goose

EA: 7 Nov, Fermi (AS).

Canada Goose

MC: 3645, Chau, 4 Nov (R&SBj); 513, Rend L, 1 Oct (KM). **Small race—EA:** 8 Nov, Clin.L (MR). **MC:** 60, Carl.L, 27 Nov (DK).

Mute Swan

EA: 17 Oct, Wauk (DJ). **MC:** 29, Wolf L (Cook Co), 27 Oct (DFS).

Tundra Swan

EA: 23 Oct (15), Evanston (EW, JE); 4 Nov (4), Chau (R&SBj). **MC (additional):** 15, Wilmette, 14 Nov (EW). **Other (downstate):** 28 Nov - 7 Dec, Arcola (RC, KM, HP).

Wood Duck

MC: **590**, Chau, 19 Aug (R&SBj)—**record fall high count**; 250, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 Jul (KM); 56, Palos, 8 Aug (CT). **LD:** 13 Nov, Carl.L (DK); 2 Nov (2), JP (KC).

Gadwall

MC: 2000, HL, 14 Nov (KM); 785, Chau, 29 Oct (R&SBj).

American Wigeon

EA: 20 Aug, JP (PC). **MC:** 40, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 28 Oct (KM).

American Black Duck
EA: 22 Aug (3 ad.), GrtLakes (EW); 18 Sep, Arcola (RC); 23 Sep, Rend L (KM). **MC:** 573, Chau, 21 Oct (R&SBj); 100, LSNucPlnt, 28 Nov (C&JMc).

Mallard
MC: 35,000, Carl.L, 27 Nov (DK); 25,201, Chau, 21 Oct (R&SBj); 22,000, LSNucPlnt, 28 Nov (C&JMc).

Blue-winged Teal
EA: 2 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 4318, Chau, 16 Sep (R&SBj); 140, HL, 7 Sep (FH). **LD:** 20 Nov, Carl.L (DK); 17 Oct, Mendota (La Salle Co) (DJS).

Northern Shoveler
EA: 15 Aug, LCal (WM); 24 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 6 Sep (10), HL (FH). **MC:** **6791**, Chau, 17 Nov (R&SBj)—record IL high count, excluding aerial survey estimates. To end of period.

Northern Pintail
EA: 21 Aug, Chau (RC). **MC:** **13,892**, Chau, 17 Nov (R&SBj)—record IL high count, excluding aerial survey estimates.

Green-winged Teal
EA: 1 Aug (2), JP (PC). **MC:** 9710, Chau, 17 Nov (R&SBj); 5000, Carl.L, 27 Nov (DK).

Canvasback
EA: **19 Sep** (female), LSNucPlnt (C&JMc)—second earliest on record; 23 Oct (male), Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 16, Chau, 4 Nov (R&SBj).

Redhead
EA: 29 Sep, Bakers L (Cook Co) (CF); 23 Oct (male), Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 300, Carl.L, 14 Nov (DK).

Ring-necked Duck
EA: 17 Oct (3), Shab.L (DJ); 17 Oct (20), Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 167, Evergreen L (McLean/Woodford Cos), 2 Nov (MR).

Greater Scaup
EA: **25 Sep** (7), Evanston (EW, JE). **MC (L Michigan):** 5000+, IBSP, 30 Oct (JM). **MC (downstate):** 6, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK).

Lesser Scaup
EA: **1 Sep** (female), HL (FH); 6 Oct, Evanston (EW); 17 Oct, Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 800, Carl.L, 14 Nov (DK); 204, Chau, 29 Oct (R&SBj).

Surf Scoter
EA: 10 Oct (7), Richland Co (LH). **MC:** 15, Wilmette, 7 Nov (MR et al.). **LD:** 14 Nov, Carl.L (DK); 31 Oct, Clin.L (MD); 28 Oct (4), IBSP (SH).

White-winged Scoter
EA: 4 Oct (3), Evanston (EW). **MC:** 9, Zion (Lake Co), GrtLakes, Evanston, 23 Oct (DJ, CF).

Black Scoter
EA: 23 Oct, LincP (EW, JE, m.ob.); 24 Oct, Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 21, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 17 Nov (RP). **LD:** 26 Nov (13, incl. 4 ad. male), Glencoe (Cook Co) (GW).

Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)
EA: 1 Nov, Clin.L (AR). **MC:** 9, Glencoe (Cook Co), 26 Nov (MR). The American Ornithologists' Union officially adopted the name "Long-tailed Duck" for this species in the 42nd Supplement to its Check-list of North American Birds. See Auk 117:3, issued 19 July 2000, pp. 848-849.

Red-tailed Hawk rufous morph immature. 30 November 1999. Springfield, IL. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Bufflehead
EA: 17 Oct, Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 82, Chau, 20 Nov (MR); 30, GrtLakes, 26 Nov (DJ).

Common Goldeneye
EA: 2 Nov (pair), Bloomington (MR); 2 Nov, JP (KC); 2 Nov, LincP (GW). **MC:** 100, Wilmette, 8 Nov (KM).

Hooded Merganser
EA: 12 Jul, Lake Co (DJ); 22 Aug (2), GrtLakes (EW)—both dates likely apply to locally wandering summer populations. **MC:** 145, Palos, 25 Nov (CT); 145, L Rawson (Bureau Co), 28 Nov (DFS); 56, Spfld, 30 Nov (KM).

Common Merganser
EA: 24 Oct (13), Evanston (EW); 17 Nov, Clear L (Mason Co) (R&SBj).

Red-breasted Merganser
EA: 14 Oct, LincP (GW). **MC:** 200, Wilmette, 6 Nov (EW, MR, JR). **Other:** 8 Aug (summering?), LCal (WM).

Ruddy Duck
EA: 18 Sep, Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 1600, Chau, 29 Oct (R&SBj).

Osprey
EA: 29 Jul, Shab.L (DJS); 7 Aug (2), LShel (RC). **MC:** 3, Carl.L, 13 Sep (KM). **LD:** 22 Oct (imm.—from local brood?), Palos (CT). Scarce this fall.

Mississippi Kite
LD: **30 Oct**, MTwain (*HW, m.ob.)—**remarkable record late date**; the latest previous IL record is 24 Sep 1997.

Bald Eagle
EA: 4 Oct (ad.), Evanston (EW); 20 Oct (2 ad.), Rend L. (LH). **MC:** 10 (6 ad.), Chau, 17 Nov (R&SBj).

Northern Harrier
EA: 28 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 10, Carl.L, 17 Oct (KM).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
EA: 28 Aug, Chi (JL); 1 Sep, Rend L (KM). **MC:** 45, IBSP, 22 Oct (WS).

Cooper's Hawk
EA: 21 Aug, Chi (JL). **MC:** 5, IBSP, 22 Oct (WS).

Northern Goshawk
EA: 24 Oct (imm.), IBSP (AS). **Others:** 13 Nov (imm.), Urbana (RC); 23 Nov (imm.), Pr.Rdg (LH); 29 Nov - 7 Dec (imm.), JP (GD, SC).

Red-shouldered Hawk
EA: 17 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Piping Plover (foreground), an early fall migrant on 16 July 1999. Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.

Broad-winged Hawk
EA: 4 Sep, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 27, Urbana, 20 Sep (RV). **LD:** 30 Oct (3), Alton (FB); 29 Oct, Oswego (Kendall Co) (DFS).

Swainson's Hawk
LD: 11 Aug, South Elgin (Kane Co) (JM).

Red-tailed Hawk
MC: 66, IBSP, 22 Oct (WS); 35, Carl.L, 31 Oct (DK). **"Krider's":** 23 Oct (ad.), LCal (JE, EW); 27 Nov, Carl.L (DK). **Dark morph:** 17-30 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 1 Nov, Belknap (Johnson Co) (FB); 6 Nov, Royalton (Franklin Co) (LS); 20 Nov, Clin.L (MR); 27 Nov, Aviston (Clinton Co) (DK). **"Harlan's":** 27 Nov, Carl.L (DK).

Rough-legged Hawk
EA: 22 Oct, Vance Township (Vermilion Co) (JOS); 4 Nov (4), Pr.Rdg (LH).

Golden Eagle
EA: 4 Nov (imm.), Chau (R&SBj).

American Kestrel
MC: 11, Madison Co, 6 Aug (KM).

Merlin
EA: 11 Sep (2), IBSP (JM); 19 Sep, Carl.L (LH). **MC:** 3, LincP, 30 Sep (GW). **LD:** 7 Nov, Evanston (RC); 7 Nov, Richland Co (LH). **Others:** 5 Central, 5 South, 13 North.

Peregrine Falcon
EA: 7 Aug (2), Madison Co (KM); 14 & 21 Aug (imm. *anatum*), Chau (RC et al.). **LD:** 31 Oct, HL (KM); 23 Oct, Chi (JL). **Others:** 11 South, 5 (1 banded) Central, 17 North.

Wild Turkey
MC: 12+ (incl ad. & young), Chau, 13 Aug (SB).

Northern Bobwhite
MC: 10, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM).

Yellow Rail
EA: 21 Sep, Evanston (JE). **LD:** 30 Oct, sw. Franklin Co (*LS); 23 Oct, IBSP (SH). **Other:** 4 Oct, Pr.Rdg (LH).

King Rail
EA: 1-3 Sep, Barrington (Cook Co) (CF); 2 Sep, Edwardsville (Madison Co) (KM). **LD:** 26 Sep, Mermet L (Massac Co) (FB).

Virginia Rail
EA: 21 Aug, LCal (WM); 18 Sep, Arcola (RC). **LD:** 26 Sep, Arcola (RC).

Sora
EA: 2 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 21 Aug, LCal (JM). **MC:** **51** (all seen), Arcola, 3 Oct (RC); 31 (all seen), Arcola, 28 Sep (RC). **LD:** 1 Nov, Pulaski Co (FB).

PURPLE GALLINULE
LD: 29 Sep (imm. found dead), Daley Center, **Chi** (SP, RH-ph, specimen to Lincoln Park Zoo)—about the 47th IL record, but only the fifth for fall (the first since 1982).

Common Moorhen
MC: 13, LCal, 15 Aug (WM). **LD:** 26 Sep (imm.), Arcola (RC).

American Coot
MC: 8666, Chau, 7 Oct (R&SBj); 2000, Shab.L, 7 Nov (KM).

Sandhill Crane
EA: **20 Aug** (11 at McHenry Dam, 20 at Glacial Park (McHenry Co)) (EW). **MC:** 750, Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co), 14 Nov (CA); 16, Lawrence Co, 30 Nov (LH). Into December.

Black-bellied Plover
EA: 31 Jul, LCal (JL); 6 Aug, Stump L (Jersey Co) (KM). **MC:** 24, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM). **LD:** 5-7 Nov, Carl.L (DK); 6 Nov, LincP (AS, KM).

American Golden Plover
EA: 18 Jul, Chau (RC). **MC:** 73, Momence (Kankakee Co), 4 Sep (GW); 22, Arcola, 26 Sep (RC). **LD:** **27 Nov**, Carl.L (DK)—**record IL late date** (previous latest on 23 Nov 1980).

Semipalmated Plover
EA: 12 Jul (3), GrtLakes (DJ); 15 Jul, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 14, Rend L, 19 Aug (KM); 13, GrtLakes, 22 Aug (EW). **LD:** 30 Oct, GrtLakes (AS).

Piping Plover
EA: 16-17 Jul, GrtLakes (EW-ph, DJ, AS); 17 Jul, Naperville (Du Page Co) (DJS); 1-5 Aug, Horseshoe L CA (Alexander Co) (AR, m.ob.). **LD:** 7 Aug, Fishhk (RC).

Killdeer
MC: 3000, Chau, 5 Sep (RC)—**record high count**, topping the record set last fall; 800, HL, 2 Aug (DK); 700+, Clin.L, 14 Nov (RC).

American Avocet
EA: 25 Jul, Pekin (Tazewell Co) (RC); 17 Aug, Rockford (DW); 17 Aug, LCal (JL). **MC:** 16, LincP, 7 Sep (GW); 12, Chau, 7 Oct (R&SBj); 6, Rend L, 16 Sep (KM). **LD:** 4 Nov, Rend L (LH); 4 Nov (2), Clear L (Mason Co) (R&SBj).

Greater Yellowlegs
EA: 3 Jul, LCal (JL); 11 Jul, Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (RC); 13 Jul (3), Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 71, Chau, 16 Sep (R&SBj); 15, Rend L, 14 Sep (KM). **LD:** 27 Nov, Rockford (DW).

Lesser Yellowlegs
EA: 26 Jun (2), LCal (WM); 10 Jul, Champaign (RC); 13 Jul (10), Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 4458, Chau, 5 Aug (R&SBj); 214, LCal, 28 Aug (AS). **LD:** 7 Nov, Fermi (AS).

Solitary Sandpiper
EA: 1 Jul, Champaign (RC); 15 Jul (6), Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 40, L Bloomington, 29 Aug (MR); 25, Huse L (La Salle Co), 8 Aug (C&JMc); 14, Carl.L, 8 Aug (KM). **LD:** 3 Oct, Arcola (RC); 25 Sep, IBSP (JM).

Willet
EA: 5 Jul (2), Carl.L (LH). **MC:** 7, Rice L, 18 Jul (RC). **LD:** 24 Aug (2), Rend L (FB).

Spotted Sandpiper
MC: 50, L Bloomington, 3 Sep (MR)—**record fall high count**; 9, JP, 24 Aug (PC); 7, Rend L, 19 Aug (KM). **LD:** 14 & 25 Nov, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co) (*DD, AE)—**latest date outside so. IL**, and third latest for state.

Upland Sandpiper
EA: 8 Jul, LCal (JL). **MC:** 30, Decatur (Macon Co), 8 Aug (MD)—**record fall high count**. **LD:** 4 Sep (2), Momence (Kankakee Co) (GW).

Whimbrel
EA: 14 Jul, GrtLakes (CF). **LD:** 11 Sep, IBSP (AS, JM). **Other:** 5 Sep, GrtLakes (SH).

Hudsonian Godwit
MC: 22, Chau, 25 Aug (KR)—ties fall high count set in 1988. **LD:** 23 Oct, Mermet L (Massac Co) (FB).

Marbled Godwit
EA: 1-15 Aug, Chau (SB, m.ob.). **MC:** 2, Chau, 28-29 Aug (KR, RC, m.ob.). **Others:** 15 Aug, Fishhk (RC); 17 Aug, Pope Co (FB); 20-23 Aug, Rend L (FB-video); 26 Aug, Rend L (KM et al.).

Ruddy Turnstone
EA: 27 Jul, Bakers L (Cook Co) (CF); 23 Aug (2), Rend L (FB); 28 Aug, Chau (RC, KR); 3 Sep, Rend L (LH, KM). **MC:** 15, Carl.L, 19 Sep (LH). **LD:** 23-30 Oct, Wauk (AS, JM).

Red Knot
EA: 4 Sep, Chau (RC).

Sanderling
EA: 18 Jul (3 ad.), JP (KC); 7 Aug, Fishhk (RC). **MC:** 26, Rend L, 13 Oct (LH); 22, GrtLakes, 20 Jul (EW). **LD:** 30 Oct, Carl.L (DK).

Dunlin. 5 December 1999. Springfield, IL. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Semipalmated Sandpiper
EA: 11 Jul, LCal (JL); 15 Jul (2), Carl.L (DK); 18 Jul, Rice L & Chau (RC). **MC:** 1500+, Chau, 14 Aug (IOS).

Western Sandpiper
EA: 15 Jul (3), Carl.L (DK); 18 Jul, Rice L (RC). **MC:** 4, Fishhk, 7 Aug (RC). **LD:** 1 Oct (2), Rend L (FB); 5 Sep, LCal (AS).

Least Sandpiper
EA: 19 Jun, Carl.L (DK)—**record early fall arrival** by two days; 1 Jul, Champaign (RC). **MC:** 2143, Chau, 29 Jul (R&SBj); 250, Carl.L, 15 Jul (DK); 200, Stump L (Jersey Co), 24 Jul (KM); 127, LCal, 11 Jul (AS). **LD:** 5 Dec (2), Fishhk (RC).

White-rumped Sandpiper
EA: 8 Aug, Carl.L (KM); 21 Aug, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR); 28 Aug, Chau (RC). **LD:** 16 Oct (3), Union Co (FB, m.ob.).

Baird's Sandpiper
EA: 24 Jul, GrtLakes (AS); 1 Aug, HL (FH). **MC:** 11, LCal, 19 Sep (JL); 4, Rend L, 3 Sep (LH). **LD:** 30 Oct (imm.), Wauk (CF); 30 Oct, Carl.L (DK).

Pectoral Sandpiper
EA: 11 Jul, LCal (JL); 11 Jul, Stump L (Jersey Co) (KM); 15 Jul, Champaign (RC); 1 Aug HL (FH). **MC:** 3654, Chau, 19 Aug (R&SBj); 2500, HL, 2 Aug (DK); 250, Huse L (La Salle Co), 21 Aug (C&JMc). **LD:** 30 Oct, Clin.L (RC).

Dunlin
EA: **12 Jul**, GrtLakes (DJ)—**second earliest IL arrival**, and only the fourth recent July record; **12 Aug**, Chau (SB). **MC:** 68, Rend L, 29 Oct (LH); 57, Clin.L, 30 Oct (RC); 35, La Salle Co, 31 Oct (C&JMc). **LD:** 5 Nov, LincP (GW). **Other:** 16 Oct (breeding plumage), Arcola (RC).

Stilt Sandpiper
EA: 15 Jul (18), Carl.L (DK); 18 Jul, Rockford (DW); 18 Jul (4), O'Hare Airport (Cook Co) (AS); 18 Jul (26, incl. 8 ad.), Middle Fork R FP (Champaign Co) (RC). **MC:** 500+, L Chau, 1 Aug (RC); 28, LCal, 1-12 Sep (GW, WS). **LD:** 29 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 16 Oct (2), Arcola (RC).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper
EA: **24 Jul**, Wauk (AS)—**second earliest IL arrival**; 1 Aug, Pekin (Tazewell Co) (RC); 1 Aug, HL (FH); 1 Aug, Richland Co (LH). **MC:** 5, Chau, 28-29 Aug (RC, KR, m.ob.); 5, Rend L, 21 Aug (LH). **LD:** **31 Oct**, Carl.L (FB); **30 Oct**, Wauk (*CW, CF, *VM)—**remarkable record late dates**; the previous latest record is 13 Oct 1985.

Short-billed Dowitcher
EA: 3 Jul, LCal (JL); 13 Jul (6), Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 250+, Chau, 14 Aug (IOS); 84, LCal, 11 Jul (AS). **LD:** 19 Sep (4 imm.), LCal (AS).

Long-billed Dowitcher
EA: 28 Aug (6), Chau (RC, KR). **MC:** **186**, Chau, 21 Oct (R&SBj); 18, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM). **LD:** 5 Nov (2), Carl.L (DK); 16 Oct, Arcola (RC).

Common Snipe
EA: 21 Aug, L Bloomington (MR); 28 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 28, Mermet L (Massac Co) 25 Oct (KM). To end of period.

American Woodcock
EA: 31 Aug, JP (PC). **MC:** 6, Vance Township (Vermilion Co), 27 & 30 Oct (JOS). **LD:** 1 Nov (4), Vance Township (Vermilion Co) (JOS).

Wilson's Phalarope
EA: 18 Jul, Chau (RC). **MC:** 7, Chau, 29 Jul (R&SBj). **LD:** 19 Sep, LCal (AS).

Red-necked Phalarope
EA: 24-25 Jul, Chau (KR, RC). **MC:** 8, Chau, 29 Aug (MR); 5, Carl.L, 25 Sep (MD, DK). **LD:** 29 Aug, LCal (AS).

Red Phalarope
11 Oct, Carl.L (DK). **Phalarope, sp.—EA:** 19 Sep (2), Carl.L (reported as Red Phalaropes, without details; seen at great distance). **LD:** 6 Nov (6), Wilmette (*MR et al.; documented as possible Red Phalaropes, but note that the previous IL high count is only two birds, on 29 Aug 1997).

Jaeger, sp.
19 Sep, Carl.L (LH); 24 Sep, Carl.L (FB-video); 30 Oct (dark phase ad., reported as Parasitic), Chi (GW); 31 Oct (probable Pomarine), Evanston (EW et al.); 6 Nov (reported as Parasitic), Chi (AS); 6 Nov (2, reported as Parasitic), Evanston (MR); 7 Nov (probable juv. Parasitic), Wilmette (RC). See also Review Pending.

Laughing Gull
EA: 10 Jul (juv.), Clin.L (RC). **Other:** 2-4 Aug, 29 Aug & 12 Sep (juv.), HL (DK, FH-ph, WR).

Franklin's Gull
EA: 1 Aug (ad.), LSNucPlnt (C&JMc). **MC:** 205, Chau, 29 Oct (R&SBj); 75, Carl.L, 16 Oct (DK); 20, LincP, 1 Oct (GW). **LD:** 21 Nov, Evanston (AS).

Little Gull
LD: 5 Dec (ad.), LShel (RC). Other: See 1999 breeding season report in Meadowlark 9:1 for information on the Little Gull in Lake County during summer; also see this issue for an account of this occurrence.

Bonaparte's Gull
EA: 24 Aug (juv.), Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR); 23 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** **8000**, Carl.L, 20 Nov (DK)— **record fall**

Short-billed Dowitcher. 8 August 1999. Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.

high count; 3000, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK); 450, Spfld, 30 Nov (KM). **LD:** 5 Dec (50), LShel (RC).

Ring-billed Gull
MC: 6000, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK); 5000, Clin.L, 9 Nov (KM); 1055, JP, 30 Aug (PC).

Herring Gull
EA: 6 Sep, Chau (KM). **MC:** 150, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK).

Thayer's Gull
EA: 18 Oct, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (JL). **MC:** 5, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 28 Nov (JL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
EA: 9 Oct, 30 Oct & 14 Nov, GrtLakes (AS). **Others:** 6 North, 6 South.

Glaucous Gull
EA: 28 Nov (2), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co) (JL).

Great Black-backed Gull
EA: 28 Nov, Chi (AS).

Sabine's Gull
EA: 12 Sep, LShel (RC). **LD:** 2-7 Oct, Carl.L (imm.) (DK, m.ob.). **Others:** 24 Sep, Clin.L (AR); no date, Massac Co (*FB).

Caspian Tern
EA: 12 Jul (9), GrtLakes (DJ); 15 Jul, Carl.L (DK); 18 Jul, Rice L (RC). **MC:** 82, Chau, 19 Aug (R&SBj); 82 (29 ad.), GrtLakes, no date (EW); 41, Bakers L (Cook Co), 11 Aug (CF); 28, Rend L, 19 Aug (KM). **LD:** 2 Oct (2), JP (PC); 1 Oct, Rend L (KM).

Common Tern
EA: 16 Jul (20), GrtLakes (DJ); 18 Jul, Chau (RC). **LD:** 3 Oct (3), Carl.L (WR).

Forster's Tern
EA: 18 Jul, Chau & Rice L (RC). **MC:** 30, Carl.L, 23 Sep (KM). **LD:** 9 Oct (3), Evanston (EW); 3 Oct, Carl.L (WR).

Least Tern
EA: 21 Aug, Chau (RC). **MC:** 3 (1 ad., 2 imm.), L Bloomington, 5 Sep (*MR, m.ob.). **LD:** 6 Sep (imm.), L Bloomington (MR).

Black Tern
EA: 15 Jul, Carl.L (DK); 18 Jul (7), Middle Fork R FP (Champaign Co) (EC). **MC:** 27, Chau, 6 Sep (KM); 21, HL, 8 Aug (FH). **LD:** 28 Aug (4), Carl.L (DK).

Rock Dove
MC: **1050**, so. Cook Co, 27 Nov (DFS)—apparently a single-observer high count for the state.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE
1 Aug - 16 Oct (2), Shawnee College (Pulaski Co) (FB-video, m.ob.).

Streptopelia, sp?
[presumed to be Eurasian Collared-Dove]: 15 Aug - 17 Oct (3), Metropolis (Massac Co) (FB); 19 Aug, Bluff City (Fayette Co) (LH); 29 Sep (2), Newton (Jasper Co) (LH). **MC:** 5, Carl.L, 11 Nov (DK).

Mourning Dove
MC: 200, Rend L, 19 Aug (KM); 102, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB).

Monk Parakeet
MC: 22, JP, 25 Oct (KC).

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 7 Aug, LShel (RC). **LD:** 1 Oct, LincP (GW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
MC: 5, Carl.L, 30 Aug (KM); 4, De Kalb Co, 5 Sep (DJS). **LD:** 3 Oct, Buffalo Grove (DJ).

Barn Owl
16 Oct (2 at nest location), Union Co (KM et al.).

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: **28**, Franklin Co, all fall (LS).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 4, Vance Township (Vermilion Co), all season (JOS).

Snowy Owl
EA: 20 Nov (no description), **Clin.L** (AR).

Barred Owl
MC: **20**, sw. Franklin & se. Perry Cos, 12 & 19 Sep (LS).

Long-eared Owl
EA: 4 Nov, Clin.L (RC); 13 Nov, LincP (EW-ph).

Short-eared Owl
EA: 2 Oct, IBSP (JM). **MC:** 9, Peabody Fish & Wildlife Area (St. Clair Co), 16 Nov (TM); 7, IBSP, 23 Oct (AS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
EA: 16 Oct, LincP (PD, GW et al.); 20 Oct, Urbana (AR). **Other:** 26 Oct, LincP (GW).

Common Nighthawk
EA: 15 Aug (5), Palatine (Cook Co) (CF); **MC:** 900+, Alsip (Cook Co), 22 Aug (SF); 146, Urbana, 23 Sep (RC). **LD:** **30 Oct**, Belleville (St. Clair Co) (DK); **26 Oct** (hawking insects), Urbana (RC); **25 Sep**, McHenry Co (EC).

Chuck-will's-widow
LD: **20-21 Oct**, **Chi** (inside Navy Pier) (SP; 2 undertail covert feathers collected)—**remarkable record late date** (previous late date is 22 Sep 1990), and **the only fall record for no. IL**. See seasonal highlights.

Chimney Swift
MC: 535, JP, 18 Aug (PC); 500+, Urbana, 10 Oct (RC); 360, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 8 Oct (C&JMc); 175, Collinsville (Madison Co), 1 Oct (KM). **LD:** 16 Oct, Granite City (Madison Co) (FH); 16 Oct, LCal (WM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
EA: 16 Aug, JP (GS); 22 Aug (9), Urbana (RC). **MC:** **40+**, West Frankfort (Franklin Co), 9 Aug - 12 Sep (LS); 11, Urbana, 6 Sep (RC). **LD:** 15 Oct, West Frankfort (Franklin Co) (LS); 8 Oct, Urbana (ER).

Belted Kingfisher
MC: 4, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 3, Mermet L (Massac Co), 25 Oct (KM).

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: 25 Aug (imm.), JP (KC). **MC:** **50+**, Mason Co, 14 Aug (SB); 15, Carl.L, 24 Sep (KM); 6, Vance Township (Vermilion Co), all season (JOS).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
MC: 18, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 11, Carl.L, 13 Sep (KM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 16 Sep (imm.), JP (PC); 25 Sep, Carl.L (IOS); 26 Sep,

Urbana (RC). **MC:** 12, LincP, 30 Sep (GW); 7, Urbana, 3 Oct (RC). **LD:** 30 Nov, Urbana (ER).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 28, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 8, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM); 8, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 9, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 5, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB). **Others:** 1 Oct, JP (PC); 25 Nov (female), JP (PC).

Northern Flicker
MC: 40, Urbana, 2 Oct (RC); 13, JP, 17 Sep (PC, KC).

Pileated Woodpecker
27 Nov, Momence (Kankakee Co) (DFS).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: **1 Aug**, Little America (Fulton Co) (RC). **LD:** 19 Sep, JP (KC, PC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 22 Aug, JP (PC, SC). **MC:** 18, Carl.L, 13 Sep (KM). **LD:** 16 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 10 Oct (3), Urbana (RC); 10 Oct, SRock (C&JMc).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: 30 Jul, Urbana (RC). **LD:** 11 Sep, JP (SC, KC).

Acadian Flycatcher
LD: 4 Sep (2), SRock (C&JMc).

Alder Flycatcher
EA: 15 Aug, Fishhk (RC). **LD:** 27 Sep, Carl.L (KM).

Willow Flycatcher
EA: 20 Aug, Evanston (JE). **LD:** 22 Sep, LincP (GW).

Least Flycatcher
EA: 27 Jul, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (JS); 15 Aug, Fishhk (RC); 16 Aug, JP (PC). **MC:** 4, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM). **LD:** 9 Oct, Urbana (RC); 30 Sep, LincP (GW).

Eastern Phoebe
EA: 15 Sep, Wilmette (EW); 19 Sep, Urbana (RC et al.). **MC:** 7, Urbana, 9 Oct (RC). **LD:** 3 Nov, Bloomington (MR); 31 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 18 Oct, JP (KC).

Great-crested Flycatcher
EA: 21 Aug (2), JP (PC). **MC:** 3, Carl.L, 5 Sep (DK). **LD:** 19 Sep, Carl.L (KM); 15 Sep (2), JP (PC, SC).

Western Kingbird
EA: **7 Aug**, LShel (RC)—notably early if migrant. **MC:** 5, Madison Co, 7 Aug (KM). **LD:** **12 Oct**, Giant City SP (Jackson Co) (*HP)—third latest IL record.

Eastern Kingbird
MC: 26, Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 20 Aug (EW); 20, Carl.L, 30 Aug (KM). **LD:** 18 Sep (6), Carl.L (DK); 9 Sep, JP (SC).

Loggerhead Shrike
MC: 5, Franklin Co, all fall (LS). **LD:** 26 Nov, Madison Co (FH).

Northern Shrike
EA: 17 Oct, Lake Forest (Lake Co) (RP). **Others:** 19-20 Oct (ad.), Chi (JL, GW); 23 Oct (imm.), Chi (JL); 24 Oct, IBSP (WS); 2 Nov, Van Patten Woods FP (Lake Co) (RP); 3-4 Nov (ad.), Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co) (CF); 4-13 Nov (ad.), Clin.L (Lane area) (RC, m.ob.); 6 & 19 Nov (imm.), Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington (Cook Co) (CF); 7 Nov (ad.), Clin.L (Mascoutin area) (MD, DK); 7 Nov, Paul Douglas FP (Du Page Co) (KM); 8 Nov (imm.), Clin.L (GPW); 17 Nov (ad.), Clin.L (DeWitt area) (RC); 19 Nov (ad.), Barrington (Cook Co) (CF); 20 Nov (ad.), Clin.L (power plant).

White-eyed Vireo
EA: 22 Aug, Urbana (RC). **MC:** 8, Carl.L, 5 Sep (DK). **LD:** **16 Oct**, Urbana (RC).

Bell's Vireo
LD: 8 Sep, Carl.L (DK).

Yellow-throated Vireo
EA: 10 Sep, LincP (GW). **MC:** 3, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM). **LD:** 29 Sep, Wilmette (JE).

Blue-headed Vireo
EA: 1 Sep (2), JP (RM, SC, PC); 22 Sep, Cahokia Mounds (St. Clair Co) (FH); 2 Oct, Urbana (RC). **LD:** 24 Oct, Du Page Co (RF, KF).

Warbling Vireo
EA: 22 Aug, JP (PC, SC). **MC:** 8, JP, 3 Sep (PC); 6, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM). **LD:** 15 Sep, JP (PC, SC).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 21 Aug, Chau (RC). **MC:** 3, Buffalo Grove (Cook Co), 11 Sep (DJ); 3, JP, 13 Sep (PC, SC); 3, Carl.L, 5 Sep & 18 Sep (DK). **LD:** 9 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Red-eyed Vireo
EA: 18 Aug, JP (PC). **MC:** 6, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM). **LD:** 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM); 27 Sep, JP (PC).

Blue Jay
MC: 52, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM).

American Crow
MC: 400, Madison Co, 26 Oct (KM).

Fish Crow
LD: **13 Nov**, HL (WR).

Horned Lark
EA: 25 Sep, Evanston (EW, JE).

Purple Martin
EA: **28 Jun** (40), Evanston (EW). **MC:** 3000, Chau, 28 Aug (RC); 800, LincP, 11 Aug (GW). **LD:** 5 Sep (2), JP (PC, KC).

Tree Swallow
MC: **300,000**, Carl.L, 2 Oct (DK)—**three times the previous IL high count** (from same site on 27 Sep 1994); 10,000, LShel, 28 Sep (RC); 10,000, Clin.L, 2 Oct (RC). **LD:** 17 Nov, Clin.L (RC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: **28 Jun**, Evanston (EW)—record early arrival, but few available data. **MC:** 2000, Chau, 14 Aug (SB); 2000, MTwain, 25 Sep (HW). **LD:** 5 Oct (47), Ottawa (La Salle Co) (C&JMc).

Bank Swallow
EA: **28 Jun** (2), Evanston (EW). **MC:** **10,000**, Chau, 14 Aug (RC)—third highest count on record. **LD:** 11 Sep (10), Kaneville (Kane Co) (DJS).

Cliff Swallow
MC: 500, Fishhk, 7 Aug (RC). **LD:** 27 Sep (2), Carl.L (KM); 14 Sep (4), LincP (GW).

Barn Swallow
EA: 28 Jun (3), Evanston (EW)—record early arrival, but few available data. **MC:** 50,000, Carl.L, 2 Oct (DK)- **-unprecedented IL high count**, ten times the previous maximum (from the same site on 27 Sep 1997). **LD:** 17 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Carolina Chickadee
MC: 22, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 92, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 17, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 12, Kendall Co, 29 Oct (DFS); 11, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
EA: 12-14 Aug, SandRdg (SB); 19 Aug, Urbana (RC); 20 Aug, JP (PC); 5 Sep, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KM). **MC:** 11, Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co), 20 Nov (DFS); 9, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB).

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 33, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 6, Carl.L, 30 Aug (KM).

Brown Creeper
EA: 16 Sep, JP (PC, KC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 14, Kendall Co, 29 Oct (DFS); 6, JP, 24 Sep & 2 Oct (PC).

Carolina Wren
MC: 10, Urbana, 16 Oct (RC); 6, Kendall Co, 29 Oct (DFS).

Bewick's Wren
LD: 4 Oct, Bloomington (MR).

House Wren
MC: 16, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB). **LD:** 18 Oct, Urbana (RC); 16 Oct, Pulaski Co (KM et al.); 5 Oct, LincP (GW).

Winter Wren
EA: 7 Sep, Homer (Champaign Co) (JOS)—**record early arrival** by one day; 16 Sep, LincP (GW); 21 Sep, Madison Co (FH). **MC:** 22, JP, 6 Oct (PC)—second highest fall count on record; 16, JP, 3 Oct (PC); 15, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC). To end of period.

Sedge Wren
MC: 8, Carl.L, 8 Aug (KM). **LD:** 17 Oct, Urbana (RC); 10 Oct, Afton FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS).

Marsh Wren
EA: 5 Sep, JP (PC); 14 Sep, Rend L (KM). **LD:** 20 Nov, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (DFS).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 17 Sep, IBSP (DJ); 19 Sep, Urbana (RC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 150, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC); 52, SRock, 10 Oct (C&JMc). **LD (north):** 26 Nov, LincP (GW).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: 31 Aug, Sannauk FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 9 Sep, Urbana (RC); 24 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 35, Carl.L, 9 Oct (KM); 30, Urbana, 16 Oct (RC). **LD:** 14 Nov, LincP (GW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
LD: 29 Oct, Oswego (Kendall Co) (*DFS); 26 Oct, JP (*KC); 28 Sep, Urbana (RC). The October records are the latest outside so. IL (where there are three December records); the latest previous date for no. IL is 2 Oct 1993.

Eastern Bluebird
MC: 24, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB); 19, so. Kendall Co, 29 Oct (DFS).

Veery
EA: 18 Aug, JP (PC); 29 Aug, Urbana (RC); 30 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **LD:** 25 Sep, Sannauk FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush
EA: 29 Aug, Urbana (RC); 29 Aug, JP (PC, SF). **MC:** 5, JP, 29 Sep (PC, SC). **LD:** 10 Oct, Urbana (RC).

Swainson's Thrush
EA: 10 Aug, JP (PC); 29 Aug, Urbana (RC). **MC:** 100+. JP, 11 Sep (CA); 50, Urbana, 21 Sep (RC). **LD:** 10 Oct, Urbana (RC); 6 Oct, JP (PC, KC).

Hermit Thrush
EA: 21 Sep, JP (KC); 26 Sep, Urbana (RC). **MC:** 75, Chi, 9 Oct (CA). **LD:** 18 Nov, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co) (KM).

Wood Thrush
EA: 17 Sep, JP (KC). **LD:** 10 Oct, Urbana (RC).

American Robin
MC: 200, Jackson Co, 16 Oct (KM et al.); 100+, Vance Township (Vermilion Co), 31 Oct (JOS).

Gray Catbird
MC: 60, Urbana, 15 & 18 Sep (RC)—**record fall high count**; 31, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM). **LD:** 20 Nov, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (DFS).

Northern Mockingbird
MC: 6, Madison Co, 7 Aug (IOS). **Others (north):** 30 Aug, Kane Co (DJS); 27 Nov, Pembroke Township (Kankakee Co) (DFS).

Brown Thrasher
MC: 13, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM).

European Starling
MC: 750+, Glen Ellyn (Du Page Co), 26 Sep (EW).

American Pipit
EA: 18 Sep, Arcola (RC); 24 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 70, Clin.L, 6 Nov (RC); 37, Carl.L, 11 Nov (DK); 25, Wauk, 17 Oct (DJ). **LD:** 5 Dec (23), Fishhk (RC); 4 Nov, LincP (GW).

Cedar Waxwing
EA: 3 Aug (8), JP (PC). **MC:** 354, JP, 26 Aug (PC); 300, Urbana, 3 Oct (RC); 250, Carl.L, 28 Aug (DK).

Blue-winged Warbler
EA: 2 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB)—post-breeding wanderer or record early fall arrival; 17 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 4, Sangamon Co, 29 Aug (DB). **LD:** 14 Sep, JP (PC et al.).

Golden-winged Warbler
EA: 15 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 7, Sangamon Co, 29 Aug (DB); 5, Carl.L, 5 Sep (DK). **LD:** 16 Sep, Silver Springs SP (Kendall Co) (DJS); 16 Sep, JP (KC). **"Brewster's Warbler"**: 11 Sep, Urbana (RC).

Tennessee Warbler
EA: 5 Aug, Urbana (RC); 18 Aug, Evanston (EW); 30 Aug (3), Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 40, Urbana, 6 Sep (RC), 27, Carl.L, 6 Sep (KM). **LD:** 11 Oct, JP (SF, PC); 10 Oct, Carl.L (DK).

Orange-crowned Warbler
EA: 17 Sep, JP (SF); 28 Sep, Urbana (RC); 3 Oct, Madison Co (FH). **MC:** 21, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC)—second highest fall count on record. **LD:** 31 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 24 Oct, LincP (GW).

Nashville Warbler
EA: 18 Aug, JP (PC); 25 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 30 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 8, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB); 7, JP, 31 Aug (KC). **LD:** 16 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 11 Oct, JP (KC).

Northern Parula
EA: 2 Aug, Urbana (GL). **LD:** 17 Oct, Urbana (RC); 9 Oct, JP (KC).

Yellow Warbler
EA: 6 Aug, Evanston (EW). **LD:** 19 Sep (boreal race), Carl.L (DK); 17 Sep (imm.), JP (PC).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
EA: 14 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 17 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 20, Sangamon Co, 29 Aug (DB); 7, JP, 9 Sep (PC, KC); 4, Carl.L, 6 Sep & 5 Oct (KM). **LD:** 10 Oct, Urbana (RC et al.); 10 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 9 Oct, LincP (CA).

Magnolia Warbler
EA: 18 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 31, JP, 13 Sep (KC, PC); 13, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB); 9, Carl.L, 13 Sep (KM). **LD:** 10 Oct, JP (PC); 10 Oct (2), Urbana (RC); 10 Oct, Carl.L (DK).

Cape May Warbler
EA: 18 Aug (male), JP (PC); 29 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 6 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 7, SRock, 18 Sep (DW); 7, JP, 9 Sep (PC, KC). **LD:** 11 Oct, JP (PC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler
EA: 25 Aug (female), JP (PC); 6 Sep (female), Urbana (RC); 11 Sep (male), Illini SP (La Salle Co) (C&JMc); 13 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **LD:** 23 Oct (male), JP (KC); 10 Oct (male), Clin.L (MD). **Others (inland):** 17 Sep, Rockford (DW); 28 Sep (male), LShel (RC); 3 Oct (female), Urbana (RC); 8 Oct, SRock (JH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler
EA: 21 Aug (2), JP (PC); 19 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 260, SRock, 10 Oct (C&JMc); 100, Carl.L, 29 Oct (KM).

Black-throated Green Warbler
EA: 20 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 20, Urbana, 9 Oct (RC). **LD:** 16 Oct (6), Carl.L (DK).

Blackburnian Warbler
EA: 15 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 17 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 7, Sangamon Co, 29 Aug (DB); 5, SRock, 18 Sep (DW). **LD:** 11 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 29 Sep, Wauk (DJ).

Yellow-throated Warbler
LD: 11 Oct, Carl.L (DK)—third latest IL departure.

Pine Warbler
EA: 20 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **Other:** 12 Aug (probably resident), SandRdg (SB).

Prairie Warbler
EA: 29 Aug, Urbana (RC). **LD:** 5 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **Other:** 5 Sep, JP (KC, JSR).

Palm Warbler
EA: 26 Aug, LincP (GW); 11 Sep, Towanda (McLean Co) (RC); 18 Sep, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 49, JP, 29 Sep (PC). **LD:** 17 Oct, JP (KC).

Bay-breasted Warbler
EA: 20 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 20 Aug, JP (PC). **MC:** 8, Urbana, 6 Sep (RC). **LD:** 9 Oct, LincP (CA); 5 Oct, Carl.L (KM).

Blackpoll Warbler
EA: 19 Aug, JP (PC); 30 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 17, JP, 17 Sep (PC). **LD:** 4 Oct, LincP (GW).

Cerulean Warbler
LD: 11 Sep, JP (CW).

Black-and-white Warbler
EA: 5 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 17 Aug (2), JP (PC); 30 Aug, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 10, JP, 17 Sep (PC). **LD:** 10 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 2 Oct, Sannauk FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 2 Oct, JP (SC).

American Redstart
EA: 10 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 40, Urbana, 6 Sep (RC); 34, JP, 13 Sep (KC, PC). **LD:** 5 Nov (female), Urbana (AR).

Prothonotary Warbler
LD: 29 Aug (3), Chau (MR); 29 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Aug (2), Carl.L (DK).

Ovenbird
EA: 15 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 8, JP, 11 Sep (SC). **LD:** 11 Oct, JP (KC).

Northern Waterthrush
EA: 3 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 9, JP, 29 Aug (PC, SC). **LD:** 16 Oct, JP (KC).

Louisiana Waterthrush
LD: 24 Sep, Du Page Co (RF, KF).

Connecticut Warbler
MC: 10, Chi (Seneca Park), 5 Sep (WS, CA, SF)—second highest one-day count for state. **LD:** 15 Sep, JP (PC). **Other (downstate):** 6 Sep, Urbana (RC).

Mourning Warbler
EA: 14 Aug, JP (PC); 23 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC:** 7, JP, 23 & 25 Sep (PC). **LD:** 30 Sep, LincP (GW); 25 Sep, Carl.L (RC).

Common Yellowthroat
MC: 16, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB). **LD:** 6 Oct, JP (KC); 6 Oct, LincP (GW).

Wilson's Warbler
EA: 20 Aug (2 males), Evanston (JE); 20 Aug, JP (PC); 20 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB). **MC: 10**, JP, 2 Sep (PC). **LD:** 2 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 30 Sep, JP (KC).

Canada Warbler
EA: 18 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 28 Aug, Carl.L (DK). **MC:** 6, Urbana, 22 Aug (RC). **LD: 27 Oct** (male), Urbana (AR)—**record IL late date by twelve days**.

Yellow-breasted Chat
LD: 27-30 Sep, JP (PC, JSR).

Summer Tanager
EA: 18 Sep, SRock (DW). **LD: 16 Oct**, UCCA (KM et al.).

Scarlet Tanager
EA: 5 Aug, Urbana (RC)—record early if true migrant. **LD:** 10 Oct, Urbana (RC et al.); 10 Oct, Mahomet (Champaign Co) (RC).

Spotted Towhee
EA: 16 Oct, UCCA (KM, *FB, m.ob.). **LD:** 20-21 Nov, Clin.L (JC, m.ob.).

Eastern Towhee
MC: 16, Carl.L, 12 Sep (KM); 16, Carl.L, 5 Sep (DK).

American Tree Sparrow
EA: 13 Oct (2), JP (PC, SC); 13 Oct (2), LincP (GW). **MC:** 92, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS).

Chipping Sparrow
EA: 13 Sep, JP (SC). **MC:** **150**, Urbana, 2 & 9 Oct (RC)—**single-party high counts for IL**; 60, Mahomet, 10 Oct (RC). **LD:** 9 Nov, Clin.L (KM); 31 Oct (15), Carl.L (DK); 28 Oct (2), Wilmette (JE).

Clay-colored Sparrow
EA: 2 Sep (2), JP (PC); 19 Sep, Urbana (RC). **LD:** 6 Oct, LincP (GW); 3 Oct, Urbana (RC); 2 Oct, Carl.L (DK).

Field Sparrow
EA: 6 Oct, JP (PC). **MC:** 25, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC). **LD (north):** 22 Oct, LincP (GW).

Vesper Sparrow
LD: 31 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 31 Oct, LincP (GW).

Lark Sparrow
LD: **15-24 Oct**, LincP (GW, RF, KF, EW-ph)—second latest IL departure.

Savannah Sparrow
EA: 17 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 19 Sep (7), Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 63, sw. Franklin Co, 3 Nov (LS). **LD:** 21 Nov, Heyworth (McLean Co) (MR); 14 Nov (2), LSNucPlnt (C&JMc).

Grasshopper Sparrow
LD: 3 Oct, JP (PC).

Henslow's Sparrow
EA: 30 Sep, Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MR). **LD:** 18 Oct, Pulaski Co (FB).

Le Conte's Sparrow
EA: 4 Oct, Pr.Rdg (LH); 16 Oct, LincP (GW). **LD:** **27 Nov** (2), **GrtLakes** (AS, SH)—second latest record for Chi area.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
EA: 9 Sep, JP (PC); 19 Sep, Carl.L (FB). **LD:** 13 Oct, JP (SC); 13 Oct, LincP (GW); 10 Oct, Clin.L (MD); 9 Oct, Carl.L (KM, DK).

Fox Sparrow
EA: 3 Oct (2), Urbana (RC); 3 Oct, JP (PC). **MC:** 15, Shab.L, 23 Oct (DJS). **LD:** 2 Dec, Palos (CT).

Song Sparrow
MC: 65, Carl.L, 7 Nov (DK); 31, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS).

Lincoln's Sparrow
EA: 31 Aug, JP (PC, KC); 15 Sep, Urbana (RC). **MC:** 16, Urbana, 9 Oct (RC); 8, JP, 17 Sep (KC, PC). **LD:** 6 Nov, Evanston (MR, EW, JE).

Swamp Sparrow
EA: 16 Sep (2), JP (PC, KC); 19 Sep, Sangamon Co (DB); 5 Oct (15), Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 150, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC); 27, Carl.L, 25 Oct (KM).

White-throated Sparrow
EA: 13 Sep, IBSP (DJ); 21 Sep, Urbana (RC); 24 Sep, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** **1000**, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC); 55, Carl.L, 29 Oct (KM).

Harris' Sparrow
EA: 21 Sep (imm.), JP (PC, SC). **LD:** 2-13 Oct, LincP (JL, GW); 2 Oct, Clin.L (RC). **Other:** 27 Sep, JP (PC).

White-crowned Sparrow
EA: **23 Aug** (ad.), JP (*PC) (summered locally?—otherwise, record early IL arrival by eleven days); 3 Oct, Urbana (RC); 4 Oct, Wauk (DJ); 7 Oct, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KM). **MC:** 50, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC); 40, Madison Co, 31 Oct (KM). **"Gambel's":** 11 Nov, Carl.L (DK).

Dark-eyed Junco
EA: 8 Sep (2), JP (SC); 3 Oct (2), Vance Township (Vermilion Co) (JOS). **MC:** 280, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 118, JP, 2 Nov (KC); 40, Madison Co, 31 Oct (KM). **"Oregon" race:** 30 Sep (male), JP (SC); 24 Nov (partial albino male), Colfax (McLean Co) (MR).

Lapland Longspur
EA: 25 Sep, LincP (JL); 25 Sep, Evanston (EW, JE); 23 Oct, Clin.L (RC). **MC:** 5000, Vance Township (Vermilion Co), 18 Nov (JOS).

Snow Bunting
EA: **25 Sep**, Evanston (EW, JE)—**record early IL arrival** by two days; 7 Nov (3), so. DeWitt Co (MD). **MC:** 519, LSNucPlnt, 14 Nov (C&JMc); 100+, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 30 Oct (CF). **Others (downstate):** 11 Nov, Clin.L (RC); 21 Nov, Richland Co (LH).

Northern Cardinal
MC: **61**, Bureau Co, 28 Nov (DFS); 40, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM); 22, JP, 1 Sep (PC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
EA: 20 Aug, JP (PC). **MC:** 30, Urbana, 21 Sep (RC). **LD:** 11 Oct, Carl.L (DK); 9 Oct, Urbana (RC); 1 Oct, JP (PC).

Blue Grosbeak
LD: 14 Aug, Madison Co (KM); 7 Aug, LShel (RC).

Indigo Bunting
MC: 25, Urbana, 3 Oct (RC); 21, Carl.L, 6 Aug (KM). **LD:** 17 Oct (7), Urbana (RC).

Dickcissel
MC: 6, MTwain, 6 Aug (KM). **LD:** 12 Sep, Carl.L (KM); 21 Aug, LCal (JL).

Bobolink
EA: 17 Aug, Sangamon Co (DB); 26 Aug, LincP (GW). **MC:** 25, Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 20 Aug (EW); 8, Sangamon Co, 19 Sep (DB). **LD:** 16 Oct, IBSP (JM).

Red-winged Blackbird
MC: **200,000**, Chau, 9 Nov (R&SBj)—highest non-CBC count for state; **80,000**, Carl.L, 31 Oct (DK). **LD (north):** 24 Nov, JP (PC).

Eastern Meadowlark
MC: 40, Pulaski Co, 16 Oct (KM et al.). **LD (north):** 11 Nov, LincP (GW).

Western Meadowlark
EA: 23 Oct, Carl.L (DK). **LD:** 20 Nov, Carl.L (DK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
EA: 21 Aug, Chau (RC).

Rusty Blackbird
EA: 25 Sep, GrtLakes (JM); 25 Sep, Evanston (JE, EW); 14 Oct, Urbana (RC). **MC:** 300, Clin.L, 13 Nov (RC); 200, Shab.L, 23 & 24 Oct (DJS).

Brewer's Blackbird
MC: 9, Carl.L, 31 Oct (DK); 4, Pr.Rdg, 21 Oct (LH); 4, Madison Co, 31 Oct (KM).

Common Grackle
MC: 4500, so. Kane Co, 29 Oct (DFS); 1000, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 16 Sep (KM).

Brown-headed Cowbird
MC: 10,000, Champaign, 29 Aug - 19 Sep (RC).

Orchard Oriole
LD: 28 Aug, Carl.L (DK).

Baltimore Oriole
MC: 11, JP, 18 Aug (PC). **LD:** 8 Sep (imm. female), JP (SC, PC).

Purple Finch
EA: 11 Sep, LincP (JL); 25 Sep, Urbana (RC). **MC:** 40, Urbana, 17 Oct (RC); 8, Shab.L, 25 Sep (DJS). **LD (north):** 20 Nov, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co) (SH).

House Finch
MC: 125, Bond Co, 17 Oct (KM); 60, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 7 Oct (RP).

Red Crossbill
EA: 13 Oct, Evanston (JE); 1 Nov (7), Clin.L (MR). **MC:** 12, IBSP, 4 Nov (SH).

White-winged Crossbill
EA: 4 Nov, Lyons Woods FP (Lake Co) (SH); 3 Dec, Urbana (RC).

Common Redpoll
EA: 23 Oct, Clin.L (RC); 24 Oct (3), Fermi (RF, KF); 25 Oct, LincP (GW).

Pine Siskin
EA: 5 Oct, Carl.L (KM). **MC:** 200+, Clin.L, 30 Oct (RC).

American Goldfinch
MC: 49, JP, 16 Nov (KC); 27, Carl.L, 5 Oct (KM).

Evening Grosbeak
EA: 11 Nov (female), Du Page Co (RF, KF).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 200, Chau, 29 Aug (MR).

EXOTICS:

Ringed Turtle-Dove
Many throughout period, Brookfield (RR, NB).

Budgerigar
29 Aug & 6 Sep, JP (KC, PC).

REVIEW PENDING:
Documentations for the following reports from the fall 1999 season are under review by the IORC, which will publish its findings in a forthcoming issue of *Meadowlark*.

PACIFIC LOON
LD: 8-19 Dec, Clin.L—second latest for state; 5 Dec, LShel.

EURASIAN WIGEON
16-31 Oct, Carl.L.

PRAIRIE FALCON
EA: 6-7 Nov, Lodge (Piatt Co).

RUFF
11 Sep, Meredosia (Morgan Co).

POMARINE JAEGER
31 Oct-7 Nov, Clin.L.

PARASITIC JAEGER
6 Nov, Wilmette.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER
19 Sep - 2 Oct (light morph juv.), Carl.L; 22-23 Sep (light morph juv., paler than preceding), Carl.L. This species has yet to be accepted to the Illinois list. One additional report—an old specimen, from 1893—is also under IORC review.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE
18 Oct, Urbana.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD
30 Nov - 4 Dec, Urbana.

CORRIGENDUM (1998 Fall Season):

Black-legged Kittiwake: EA (reported as 2 imm.) should read "11 Nov (1 ad., 2 imm.)...."

ADDENDA:
The following significant records for fall 1998 were received too late for publication last year:

Greater Scaup
MC: 3465, Evanston, 1 Nov (Eric Walters, JE).

Alder Flycatcher
LD: 26 Sep (calling), Chi (Eric Walters, m.ob.)—second latest fall date identified as this species.

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Snow Bunting along the lakefront, 23 October 1999,
at Chicago's Montrose Harbor. Cook County.
Photo by Eric Walters.